



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
RAMON MAGSAYSAY
1953-1957

BOOK 7 | VOLUME 3
Historical Papers and Documents

ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

Inaugural Address of President Magsaysay, December 30, 1953

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY RAMON MAGSAYSAY
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

[Delivered at the Independence Grandstand, Manila, on December 30, 1953]

My Countrymen:

You have called upon me to assume the highest office within our gift. I accept the trust humbly and gratefully. My sole determination is to be President *for* the people.

The office of President is the highest in the land. It can be the humblest also, if we regard it – as we must – in the light of basic democratic principles. The first of these principles is the declaration of the Constitution that “sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.” This simply means that all of us in public office are but servants of the people.

As I see it, your mandate in the past election was not a license for the selfish enjoyment of power by any man or group of men. On the contrary, it was an endorsement of the principle – at times forgotten – that the general welfare is the only justification for the exercise of governmental power and authority.

Your mandate was a clear and urgent command to establish for our people a government based upon honesty and morality; a government sensitive to your needs, dedicated to your best interests, and inspired by our highest ideals of man’s liberty.

We have a glorious past. Now we must build a future worthy of that past.

It is significant that we begin on this day and on this ground hallowed by the supreme sacrifice of Jose Rizal. We can find no finer example of dedication to country to light our way.

All too often, however, we speak of Rizal – and of Del Pilar, Bonifacio, Mabini, and our host of heroes – as if their work were done, as if today their spirit had ceased to have any meaning or value to our people. The truth is that we need their spirit now more than ever. We need it to complete the work which they began.

We need men of integrity and faith like Rizal and Del Pilar; men of action like Bonifacio; men of inflexible patriotism like Mabini. We need their zeal, their self-reliance, their capacity for work, their devotion to service, their ability to lose themselves in the common cause of building a nation.

I will have such men. From this day, the members of my administration, beginning with myself, shall cease to belong to our parties, to our families, even to ourselves. We shall belong only to the people.

In the administration of public affairs, all men entrusted with authority must adhere firmly to the ideals and principles of the Constitution.

I will render – and demand – uncompromising loyalty to the basic tenet of our Constitution; that you, the people, are sovereign. The rule of government must be service to you.

Accordingly, I pledge my administration to your service. I pledge that we shall extend the protection of the law to everyone, fairly and impartially – to the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlettered – recognizing no party but the nation, no family but the great family of our race, no interest save the common welfare.

The Bill of Rights shall be for me and the members of my administration, a bill of duties. We shall be guardians of the freedom and dignity of the individual.

More than this, we shall strive to give meaning and substance to the liberties guaranteed by our Constitution – by helping our citizens to attain the economic well-being so essential to the enjoyment of civil and political rights.

The separation of powers ordained by our Constitution – as an effective safeguard against tyranny – shall be preserved zealously. Mutual respect for the rights and prerogative of each of the three great departments of government must be observed.

The legislative power vested by the Constitution, in the elected representatives of the people will, I trust, operate vigorously to prosecute our common program of honest, efficient and constructive government. As Executive, I look forward to intimate cooperation with the members of Congress, particularly with those statesmen who have stood guard over the rights and liberties of our people.

The independence of the judiciary shall be strengthened. Our courts must be freed from political and other baneful influences, so that they may function with the same integrity and impartiality which have made our Supreme Court the fortress of law and justice.

Heretofore, social justice has raised fervent but frustrated hopes in the hearts of our less fortunate citizens. We must not permit social justice to be an empty phrase in our Constitution. We must bring it to life – for all.

In consonance with this purpose, my administration shall take positive, energetic measures to improve the living conditions of our fellow citizens in the barrios and neglected rural areas and of laborers in our urban and industrial centers.

The land tenure system of our country shall be reexamined, to purge it of injustice and oppression.

“Land for the landless” shall be more than just a catch-phrase. We will translate it into actuality. We will clear and open for settlement our vast and fertile public lands which, under the coaxing of willing hearts and industrious hands, are waiting to yield substance to millions of our countrymen.

Democracy becomes meaningless if it fails to satisfy the primary needs of the common man, if it cannot give him freedom from fear and on which a strong republic can be built. His happiness and security are the only foundations on which a strong republic can be built. His happiness and security shall be foremost among the goals of my administration.

We must develop the national economy so that it may better satisfy the material needs of our people. The benefits of any economic or industrial development program shall be channeled first to our common people, so that their living standards shall be raised.

While I shall give priority to our domestic problems, my administration will not neglect our international responsibilities. We cannot escape the fact that, today, the destinies of nations are closely linked. It is in this spirit that we regard the goodwill and assistance extended to us through the various programs of international economic cooperation with the more developed nations, chiefly the United States. Considering this aid to be primarily a means of speeding up our progress toward self-reliance, I pledge that every peso worth of assistance will be spent honestly and to the best advantage.

It is to our common interest that this Republic, a monument to mutual goodwill and common labor, should prove to the world the vitality of the democracy by which we live.

We shall continue to cooperate with the United Nations in seeking collective security and a just world peace.

No effort will be spared, no element of cooperation will be withheld in strengthening and safeguarding our physical security. We are prepared to live up to all our obligations under our Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States.

To our Asian brothers, we send our fraternal greetings. They are beset by problems of the same nature and complexity as those that confront us. We invite them to share our experience in finding solutions to those problems through democratic means. It is my hope that we can exchange experiences and information on methods that each of us has found most effective in subduing illiteracy, poverty, disease, under-productivity, and other common evils which have afflicted our countries of past generations.

The problems and opportunities ahead of us set the measure of the effort we must exert in the years to come. We must have unity to solve our problems, cooperation to exploit our opportunities. I urge you to forego partisan differences whenever the national interest clearly demands united action. We must not be distracted from our work. We have no time for petty strife.

Certainly we cannot temporize with armed dissidence. I therefore call upon the remnants of the Huk uprising still hiding in the hills to lay down their arms – and rejoin the rest of the nation in the ways of peace. I say to the rank and file of the Huks – who have been misled by the lies of the Kremlin – that they can win the economic security and social justice they desire only within the framework of our democracy. We shall welcome back the truly repentant with understanding and with sympathy.

But, to the leaders of the Communist conspiracy who would deliver this country and its people to a foreign power, this I say: I shall use all the forces at my command to the end that the sovereign authority of this government shall be respected and maintained. There can be no compromise with disloyalty.

I have been warned that too much is expected of this administration, that our people expect the impossible. *For this young and vigorous nation of ours, nothing is really impossible!*

Let us have faith in ourselves, the same faith that fired the heroic generation of revolution. They waged and won their struggle with nothing but bolos in their hands and courage in their hearts. Without political training and experience, they wrote a constitution comparable with the best, and established the first republic in Asia. Our own generation was told by doubters and enemies that we would never have independence from the United States. We live today under a free and sovereign Republic. Our faith was fulfilled.

Today, we are told anew that it is impossible to do what must be done. But our people, sustained by God, under whose protection we have placed our destiny and happiness, and strengthened by an abiding faith in His goodness and mercy – our people, united and free, shall shape a future worthy of our noble heritage if we but act; act together; act wisely; act with courage; and act unselfishly, in a spirit of patriotic dedication.

Sources: *Inaugural Address of Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines, December 30, 1953* (Manila: Bureau of Printing, 1953) (original copy); *Official Gazette, Vol. 49, No. 12, pp. 5331-5334* (December 1953).

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay on George Washington's Birthday

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On George Washington's Birthday**

[Delivered at Clark Field, February 22, 1954]

I AM happy to be among so many good friends tonight—personal friends and friends of the Filipino people. I am pleased also to join you in celebrating the birthday of your great national leader and first President, George Washington. As a child at school, I learned of his life at the same time that I studied the lives of our own great heroes, and I was impressed even then by the qualities they had in common. In this way I first came to realize that man's achievement was not a matter of color or race, but of principles and ideals.

Among the ideals common to Washington and Rizal, for example, perhaps the strongest was their great devotion to the principle of freedom—the freedom of individuals and of nations. Significantly, that continues to be the strongest bond between our people to this day.

Your people and mine came to know each other because of the Filipino struggle for freedom. Their relationship during the next half century was based on our preparation for the challenge of freedom. You are here today because we have combined our resources, with those of others who share our ideals, in common defense against the greatest threat to freedom in modern history—the international Communist conspiracy.

Except for those who have disappeared behind the curtain of Red imperialism, most of Asia by now has won political freedom. It remains for us to match it with economic freedom, with development of our resources so that our people can enjoy a modern standard of living and resist the encroachments of Red domination.

Your presence here, guarding us from external attack, gives us the freedom to concentrate on such domestic economic and social development. It is an excellent illustration of how mutual security can be achieved by the free world.

Recently there has been discussion of this administration's policies. Such discussion is healthy and wholesome in a democracy. But there has come out of that discussion an effort to express our policies in slogans. From the past administration we know that you cannot govern—you cannot achieve progress—by slogans. We must not try to fit the many and changing needs of the national welfare into the straitjacket of a slogan.

One danger in expressing through a slogan is that it is so easy to distort a phrase. Already, the slogan of "Asia for the Asians" is being trumpeted over Radio Peiping and by Communist propaganda channels elsewhere as a cry of hostility by our people towards the American people. This is a lie. I see nothing incompatible between friendship and sympathy for our Asian neighbors and the continuation of our especially warm relations with the United States. There is no conflict of principles, ideals or methods between the two concepts.

Slogans aside, our people have clearly stated in the last election what policy they wish to pursue.

After all, in a democracy it is the people who dictate policy, and during the recent campaign I told the people what I stood for as a candidate.

I said I would reach out to free Asian nations as a friendly neighbor, sharing experience and seeking mutual benefits through closer cooperation. I said we would expand our economic horizon, inviting and fostering greater foreign trade, inviting and welcoming greater foreign investment to help speed the development of our economy toward self-reliance.

Our people were told that, under my administration, we would stand with all free nations in a common front against aggressive Red imperialism—each contributing what it could to the common defense.

You will recall that relations between the Philippines and America were a campaign issue. I pledged that we would strengthen existing ties of friendship between the two nations, and that we would cooperate even more vigorously in fostering common ideals.

Our people voted approval to these policies and pledges when they elected me. To the best of my ability, these are the policies I shall carry out.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay at Clark Field on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(2), 562-563.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the graduates of the Philippine Military Academy

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the graduates of the Philippine Military Academy**

[Delivered in Baguio, March 15, 1954]

Mr. SUPERINTENDENT, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS:

THOSE who have been conferred their commissions today have just passed an exacting course in leadership. Their physical, mental, and moral qualifications to assume command have been tested and found adequate. As we congratulate them, we also pray that the qualities which have sustained them through the rigorous regime of this academy will develop and mature under the sharper challenges of the field, especially of combat. I have every confidence that the training they have received here from the able and competent faculty of this academy will not fail them in the more difficult tests ahead.

For many years now, the Philippine Military Academy has been the principal source of professional officer material for our army. From this institution have come the men who occupy today some of the highest and most important commands and positions in our military establishment. Year after year in the future, commencement exercises such as this one will continue to augment and replenish the supply of professionally-trained officers for our army.

The nature and quality of an organization are determined to a large extent by the type and manner of men who lead it. To know what kind of an army we have, we must find out what manner of men are the officers who command it.

What kind of training do they receive here at this academy? What is its orientation? What are the traditions that influence and mould the character, the outlook, the perspective of the men who prepare here for military leadership?

The curriculum of this institution is largely concerned, of course, with the art and science of soldiery. Students are trained in the basic skills of their profession, and are imbued with those habits and qualities of character which are so essential to a successful soldier's career. These are courage, loyalty, discipline, and sound judgment.

This is not to say, however, that the education they receive is one-sided, exaggerating the specialized skills of soldiery at the expense and sacrifice of a well-rounded education. I feel that this academy can justly take pride in the achievement that it turns out not merely competent soldiers, but educated men.

More important, however, than the substance and contents of the training that our future officers obtain here is its basic orientation. What are the various aspects of this orientation? While this academy trains its students for a soldier's career, it also teaches them to accept and recognize the superiority of civilian over military authority in our system of government. While it drills them in the Manual of War, it takes even greater pains and effort to indoctrinate them in principles and substance of our Constitution. It affirms the rule of law and justifies the use of arms and force only when it is sanctioned by law.

In brief, the orientation of their education and training is democratic. Similarly, the traditions that have clustered around this institution and our military organization have reflected only the democratic spirit of our way of life. I do not know of any instance in the history of our military when men in uniform plotted or attempted to overthrow civilian authority. One will search our history-books vainly for a tradition of military usurpation of authority.

The sum of all these facts, my friends, is that our officers—and through them our soldiers—are trained and indoctrinated according to the fundamental democratic concept of the supremacy of civilian authority. They are

Filipinos first, soldiers second, owing loyalty first to the Constitution and only secondly to the Manual of War. They are raised and steeped in the ethics of a democratic citizen's army, not in the arrogant traditions of an all-powerful elite corps.

In these premises, I find it difficult to understand the provocation and justification of some attempts to whip up fear and mistrust of the armed forces. I regret that in some instances they have been maligned and smeared unjustly, and situations have been exaggerated to undermine the people's faith in them. I deeply resent the insinuations that they are plotting at every turn to seize the government and deliver it to some vague and indefinite mastermind or junta.

I do not believe the people have forgotten how our armed forces have performed in the last two elections. They remember how desperately the civilian authorities at the time tried to use the armed forces to subvert their will and make a mockery of the democratic process of the ballot. The people know—and I certainly know from personal experience—how the armed forces resisted, resisted heroically, in order to uphold and preserve that democratic way of life which, their critics of today allege, is in danger of extinction at their own hands. I cannot follow the logic whereby an organization which had staunchly refused to be an instrument for the perpetuation of a virtual *coup d'etat* through the subversion of the electoral process should now be watched for signs of plotting the very thing it had spurned.

Since the change of administration, I have enlisted the services and assistance of both resigned and active officers of the armed forces in civilian functions. I do not know of any valid objections that could be raised against the employment of resigned or retired officers in civilian offices, unless we have reached the point where military service is now considered to have branded a man with a stigma, worse than a prison record, that disqualifies him from honest work and the opportunity to serve his country in a civilian capacity.

As to the few active officers whom I have designated to undertake civilian functions on detached service, I have time and again explain the reasons for this situation. In some cases, I have needed men of my absolute confidence to undertake delicate missions of investigation and cleaning up, and in these tasks I have chosen officers who have worked with me in the Department of National Defense as often as I have picked civilians who have earned my complete trust in other fields of activity. In other cases, specialized skills and technical know-how were required for quick and efficient results, and again I have drawn on army officers whom I knew possessed the necessary qualifications. In still other instances, the new administration came upon offices so deeply entrenched in dishonesty and corruption that only the most ruthless, uncompromising military kind of discipline could redeem them from the mire and restore them to gainful usefulness to our people.

Finally, regarding the assignment of the army's engineer teams to urgent construction projects in the provinces, I wish to say that I had promised our people during the campaign immediate relief and services upon a change of administration, and I mean to keep these promises by using the instruments readily at hand until the civilian agencies normally responsible for such functions have roused themselves out of the lethargy and stupor of the past. I want the army to pace them and challenge their pride, to infect them with its own zeal and efficiency.

But these arrangements, I wish to reiterate anew, are temporary in nature, brought on by the peculiar and incredibly chaotic conditions which the new administration encountered upon its assumption of office. In due time, I intend to withdraw many of these officers and armed forces units out of their temporary duties and back to their normal pursuits, although I will never hesitate in the future to keep soliciting the services of particular individual officers and men in the armed forces where particular situations may clearly demand their employment in other capacities for the sake of the country.

It is this temporary expedient which I had in mind when I said a while back that situations were being exaggerated to undermine public faith and confidence in our armed forces. From the assignment of a few officers in civilian positions, the fantastic suspicion has been broached that the army was taking over key offices in preparation for a *coup d'etat*. Being plotted, I wonder, by whom, and for whose benefit? Certainly not for the benefit of the duly elected, duly constituted President of the Republic, for that does not make any sense, and certainly not for the benefit of the highest officers of our army, for I know them to be completely loyal and patriotic Filipinos.

I feel compelled to urge more restraint, more sobriety, and greater understanding in our attitudes towards the armed forces. I am not trying to discourage honest and legitimate criticism of our military establishment. This I invite, for it is only under the spur of legitimate criticism that an organization is goaded to keep itself constantly primed for self-improvement and reform. Nor am I asking our people to relax their vigilance over the possibilities of abuse and excesses by our armed forces, for I fully subscribe to the precept that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. But let us not mistake wild and fantastic suspicions for vigilance, or smear tactics for honest criticism.

Our armed forces will continue to play an increasingly important role in our national life. We have yet to exterminate the last vestiges of Communist dissidence in our land. There is much construction and development work that awaits eager and efficient hands and machines.

To be able to meet these challenges to the best of their ability, the armed forces need encouragement, not unfair and destructive criticism; support, not hostility. I know that they are no less eager than the rest of our people to nurse to full flower the promise of a free and prosperous life that they have helped bring to our threshold through their steadfast loyalty to democratic ways and principles both on the fields of combat and in the polling-booths of peace.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's speech delivered before the graduates of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio, Monday morning, March 15, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 996-999.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Humanities,
Honoris Causa**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *Honoris Causa* by the Far Eastern
University**

[Delivered at Far Eastern University, March 20, 1954]

PRESIDENT EVANGELISTA, MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY OF THE FEU,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASSES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM grateful to the authorities, faculty, and student body of this university for the honors conferred upon me. Your citation is most generous, and I feel that you have anticipated much of what has yet to be done and to be proven. In any event, you have set goals, difficult but challenging, to which I may aspire and by which I may chart my course, and I want you to be assured that I will move resolutely towards them, to vindicate the honors and faith reposed in me by this institution of learning.

Your citation says that I believe that “the welfare of the people is the primordial concern of all governments.” This statement I will not dispute, and it is precisely this concern for the welfare of the people that has underlaid and inspired the first five-year economic development program of this administration that I will expound before you today.

You may recall that, in my state-of-the-nation message to Congress about two months ago, I said we needed “a coordinated plan, theoretically sound and practically feasible, to increase the national production and provide opportunities for more jobs and higher incomes for our people, particularly in the rural areas.” Since then, we have had time to look more critically into the economic position of the country, evaluate its problems, and at the same time assess the potentialities of the general economy that may be exploited to solve those problems. After taking these things into account, we have prepared a general program of action which we are now ready to execute.

Our first problem is jobs.

In 1953, our labor force was estimated at 8.1 million people. Of this number, 1.2 million were entirely out of jobs, while three million were only partially employed. Because of this high rate of unemployment, together with the low productivity of our labor force, the per capita income of the Filipino—P346 a year—is one of the lowest in the world. While I do not mean to challenge the accuracy of our unemployment and income statistics, it is entirely possible that the actual conditions are even worse than the figures portray.

This grave unemployment problem is a primary target of our economic development program.

We shall launch a two-pronged attack on this target, by undertaking immediate and extensive measures that will, first, improve agricultural production and second, stimulate industrial enterprises which will be primarily dependent on available local materials.

In agriculture, it is our plan to provide under direct government auspices certain public service projects, such as irrigation and electrification, in order to expand agricultural production; to increase the supply and use of fertilizer,

of modern agricultural implements, and high-yielding varieties of seeds in order to augment the yield of land under cultivation; to construct farm-to-market roads in order to provide outlets for the farmer's produce; to develop and expand farmers cooperatives and cottage industries in order to create work opportunities for the unemployed and the under-employed rural population; and to open lands to the landless.

The installation of more irrigation pumps and gravity irrigation systems will make possible the raising of secondary crops and will increase the yield in irrigated areas. Our estimate is that by 1955, 520-thousand hectares of land will have been under irrigation; our goal is to increase that area to 640,000 hectares by 1959.

Our program also calls for flood control projects along the Agno River and the Pampanga river, whose periodic overflow has caused untold destruction in crops and property. Similarly, the Marikina River will be harnessed and developed into a multi-purpose project that will provide water supply, power, and irrigation while at the same time it will control the flood waters during the rainy season.

Every effort will be made to help our farmers raise more crops and earn more income. We shall lay out a well-organized network of agricultural extension service, to teach our rural population improved farming methods that will enable them to draw the most out of the land. Facilities for credit and for cooperative effort will be expanded, not only to provide them with their immediate needs but to induce the growth of secondary occupations and the development of cottage industries that will keep them occupied during the off-season.

In relation to cottage industries, one of the projects that has attracted my immediate attention has been the exploitation of our coal resources, of which we have an abundant reserve. The production of coal will provide the fuel to feed steam turbines that we propose to install in areas where hydro-electric plants may not be feasible or economical. I am certain that the availability of power at low cost will stimulate cottage industries and provide more jobs for our people. At the same time, refrigeration units could set up to preserve fish, fruits, and other perishable products in some of our farming centers. Furthermore, our countrymen in the barrios could avail themselves of electrical facilities which are becoming necessities, not luxuries, in this modern age—such as lighting, for more pleasant and enjoyable living, and radios, to keep themselves informed. In brief, the exploitation of our coal and water power resources will bring about the rapid development of the rural areas through electrification.

It is essential to this agricultural program that we reform our land tenure system, to make it practical and equitable. Our tenants must be assured a fair share of their labors. Beyond this, provision will be made to enable our landless to acquire land of their own on settlement projects, and efforts will be exerted to purchase big landed estates for distribution to their occupants on realistically liberal terms.

These are the means by which we propose to open up work opportunities in our rural areas and raise the income of our farmers, that they may live more happily and decently.

Our program's second line of attack is to encourage and develop more processing industries that will utilize our rich local resources and produce substitutes for items that we currently import, thus encouraging the development of such resources.

Under the stimulus of tax exemptions and exchange controls, we hope to encourage the establishment of more processing industries that will utilize local raw materials in large proportion. It is also anticipated the local industry now dependent on foreign raw materials sources will eventually be supplied locally. We have in mind such industries as the textile and knitting industry, which has induced development of ramie, jute, and kenaf production. The paper and pulp industry also could use local materials.

If these industries should, in the long run, process local raw materials, they not only will increase national employment and income but will also conserve our dollar reserves. Ultimately, these scarce dollar resources could then be utilized to import capital goods vital to the furtherance of economic development.

Our principal task, as this program gathers momentum, will be to further induce the production of consumer goods, the demand for which will rise with increasing employment and income. We must be prepared to meet this demand

in order to minimize inflationary tendencies, which would pull down, rather than raise, the living standards of our people. Thus, we will provide every incentive and encouragement for the development of more food-processing, textile, shoe and leather manufacturing, and building-material industries.

A project that promises profitable exploitation under this program is alcohol production. At present, our importation of gasoline amounts yearly to P75 million. I understand that a certain proportion of alcohol can be blended with gasoline, without impairing in any way its quality or potency.

We have here a stimulus for alcohol production from local molasses and other materials. This will provide us with a happy solution to the problem of disposing of our excess sugar production, especially with the imposition under the Bell Act of gradually increasing tariff duties on sugar exported to the United States. Furthermore, this industry will result in tremendous savings in dollars for our economy and will open additional employment opportunities for our people.

These are the highlights of our five-year economic development program, and now we come to the questions that they raise. The first is: how many jobs will the program provide? Second: how much will it cost, and where will we get the money? Third: how can it be implemented efficiently?

It is our calculation that the first year of this program will provide additional employment to about 260,000 people. We expect this number to increase the next year to 360,000 new jobs, which will be the average figure for every year thereafter. Since our labor force increases only by about 150,000 each year, you can see that the new job opportunities generated by the program will be more than enough to take care of the annual increase in the labor supply. At the same time, we will be able to absorb a sizeable portion of the unemployed and the under-employed among our people.

I wish I could say that our program will abolish unemployment entirely. Nevertheless, I feel that if we do succeed in opening 200,000 more jobs each year than there will be new jobs-seekers, we shall have accomplished much.

The cost of this program has been estimated at an average of P800-million annually for the five-year period over which it is spread. We hope to obtain 56 per cent of this amount from private sources, and the rest from public funds. I shall confine myself just now to a break-down of the estimated outlay for the initial year.

To start off this program, a total first-year investment of nearly P631 million is contemplated. This amount will be made up of aggregate private investments amounting to P336 million and public investments of P295 million.

The public investment outlay of P295 million will consist of expenditures for permanent improvements and for major projects to be undertaken by government enterprises. A total of P172 million will be spent in gravity irrigation, pump irrigation, main traffic routes and highways, artesian wells, and other permanent public improvements. We plan to raise this money from congressional appropriations and special funds, foreign-aid grants, and public borrowing.

The rest of the government outlay will represent investments by government corporations in cement plants, coal development, fertilizer plants, steel plants, and power development projects. Altogether, these investments will total P123 million. Of this amount, P11 million will be financed by their income or earnings, and P112 million from bank loans and by public borrowing.

On the other hand, the financing of the aggregate private investments earmarked for the first year, estimated at P336 million, is expected to come from private savings and hoards, the floatation of private corporate securities, credit accommodations from the government and loans from domestic banks. As our program unfolds with increased peace, we expect private savings to participate in it in ever-growing amounts, provided it has been encouraged by investment incentives and a socio-economic climate favorable to economic growth.

Already, we have taken steps to bolster private participation in the economic development of this country. I have recommended to Congress that a bond issue of about P600 million be floated within the next five years, to enable us to finance, through borrowing from our own people, high-priority productive projects and permanent improvement to be carefully studied and recommended by the National Economic Council. In effect, we are offering every citizen an opportunity to take a direct part in his country's economic growth and have a stake in its future.

This is far from enough, however. It is also necessary that we devise and adopt better methods and new measures towards attracting private savings into our financial institutions and eventually channeling them into productive enterprises for the development of our country. To make this policy effective, the agencies and institutions that mobilize domestic capital should be improved and expanded. Thus, I have given directions for the strengthening of the Postal Savings Bank and the establishment of branch banks that will serve the remote communities of the country. If necessary, we will set up a development bank that could assist effectively in launching both private and public development projects and carrying them through to successful operation.

As a complementary move under this policy, I have asked the National Economic Council to study the best means of reducing the flow of individual savings into real estate, jewelry, and other speculative undertakings. We must divert the use of such savings into productive and development enterprises.

We will have to conserve our foreign exchange and use it wisely and to the best advantage. We must prevent its wanton dissipation in luxuries and non-essential commodities. To this end, I have directed that exchange controls on such commodities be tightened. On the other hand, we must make our foreign exchange serve the purposes of internal development. This means we will have to maintain consistent and well-defined rules and regulations in the implementation of exchange controls, to make available to existing and new industries the necessary dollars for the importation of essential machinery and raw materials. This will also give reassurance to private business in the smooth flow of capital earnings and in reducing delays in the processing and cost of remittances abroad.

Foreign exchange controls should never be discriminatory, nor should they be allowed to work undue hardships on existing and new development projects. Controls are justified only if they achieve the reverse, which is to bolster the participation of private enterprise in the development of the economy.

It is our purpose, finally, to create a climate attractive and conducive to private capital, in order to enlist in our development the hidden resources of our own citizens and the constructive assistance of our friends abroad. I said many times during the campaign that upon a change of administration, businessmen will be able to do business in this country honestly, efficiently, and without harassment in the form of bribe and extortion demands. This pledge I mean to carry out, and I will not tolerate anyone in the public service who deters, frightens, or discourages investment because of inefficiency or illegal impositions. I wish to re-assure private enterprise that it is the policy of this administration to give every encouragement and incentive to private investment, upon which it will largely depend for the realization of its economic objectives.

It is true that, under our program, the government plans to finance new enterprises into which private capital may be reluctant to venture until profitable results have been demonstrated through their actual operation. The government will engage in these enterprises, however, only in the spirit of blazing a trail and showing the way. It will readily turn them over to private hands as soon as they are operating profitably and our businessmen express the desire to take over and carry on their operation and development.

There is one concrete assistance we are determined to render to private investors which has long been overdue. I have directed the National Economic Council to make definite feasibility studies of specific industrial development projects for the benefit of prospective investors. They will survey, draw up plans, gather the necessary statistics, and prepare economic studies on possible areas of investment for prospective investors—in other words, prepare the ground for them. I am confident that this accommodation will yield substantial dividends in the form of investor-interest and actual investments.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is our five-year economic development program. It is essentially one of basic development intended to provide a fairly modest and conservative start during the first year, but accelerating its pace

as it gains momentum. It does not promise spectacular results, but it does show the way and it does hold out realistic prospects of growth, improvement, and progress for our people.

No one in the administration, least of all I, will claim that it is the last word in economic programs. In fact, it is intended to be a continuing program, in the sense that it will be revised and kept up-to-date each year. As each year ends, it will be evaluated and readjusted for the succeeding years on the basis of past performance, changing conditions, and prospects of further advance. We shall then add another year's planning to it, so that we shall always be working on the basis of five-year program.

The reasons for these features are simple. We shall be so situated that throughout the future we shall always be thinking and looking five years ahead, not just to the next five years, as if life were to end after that period. In effect, we shall always be looking indefinitely into the future. As to our intention of re-examining the program at the end of each year, I have said time and again that only the dead do not change their mind. We should not be afraid to modify, add subtract, amend, revise, or even reverse our course when the logic of changing times and circumstances clearly calls for these alternatives.

I do not believe that I have to impress upon you the demands that this program will make upon our people, or the value of your stakes in its effective implementation. I have not presented an idyllic dream that will come to reality upon the incantation of a few magic words. If anything, it is a mandate for work, unselfish and unrelenting work, sometimes killing work, for all our people, especially for you who have been blessed with the education and the opportunity to acquire the technical skills and proficiency that vest you with the duty to lead.

On the other hand, your stake in the outcome of this effort is no less than the vindication of all the love and labor that were poured into your education, and the fulfillment of your highest aspirations. As it has always been in the past, so much of the future will depend on your own selves. I assure you there will be sincere, courageous, and purposeful leadership and guidance. The rest, however, must come from you. You must admit that this is a fair challenge.

I thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *Honoris Causa* by the Far Eastern University, Saturday afternoon, March 20, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1000-1007.

**Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa* Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, by the National University**

[Delivered on March 21, 1954]

PRESIDENT JHOCSON, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND GRADUATING CLASS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

PLEASE be assured of my deep and sincere appreciation of the honor you have conferred upon me. To me, it means much more than an academic honor. It means the esteem and confidence of a highly respected group of my countrymen, of the outstanding group of men and women who comprise the faculty and the student body of this great university. But the real significance of this occasion has even greater importance in a less personal sense.

Throughout the world there are universities which confer degrees, and there are many ways in which those degrees may be won. But there is something special about the winning of such honors when the individual who wins them follows the path which I have followed, the path from humblest beginnings to the highest office within the gift of my countrymen. There is something special about this way of winning academic honors and I hope you will remember it always. It could only happen in a democracy!

Last year there were strong hints in certain quarters that my scholastic achievement was not very great. I am ready to confess that I was never outstanding in oratory. But it seems that I was sufficiently eloquent in what I said at that time to convince the majority of our electorate that they should and could have a better government. Now I only hope that I can be convincing enough to rally all of our citizens in a great effort to build a better and stronger nation.

Yesterday, I described to a similar audience the economic program which this administration intends to follow in developing our human and material resources. I hope you will find an opportunity to study this program carefully. It is the product of some of our best minds, and it is based upon our finest national traditions of social justice. It is designed to give muscle and strength to the growth of our young nation.

Today, I would like to talk to you about another aspect of our growth. The economic program deals with the physical development of our nation. What I have to say now deals with the development of our national character.

Recently, this administration issued a statement of foreign policy, a statement which reflected the thinking of all elements of the government, and which has the concurrence of all partisan groups. In this foreign policy, it is stated that we stand for the development of a "healthy nationalism" as one of the defenses against aggressive communism. I have been asked to define what is meant by "healthy nationalism."

In my mind, nations are very much like individuals, and the world is simply a large community in which nations live and work as neighbors. What I consider "healthy nationalism", therefore, is to achieve as a nation the kind of character we admire and try to achieve as individuals; to maintain the standards of national behavior which our traditions call for in a good neighbor.

Let us consider our nation in that light. Let us take the date of our independence as the date we came of age. Before that, in our national childhood and youth, we were exposed to many influences, good and bad. We grew up in the care of foster parents. Sometimes the treatment we received was harsh; at other times it was affectionate and kind. Sometimes it was too stern and we rebelled; at other times it was too indulgent and we became spoiled.

The methods of our foster parents were not always the wisest, and there was always the gap of our different ancestry, the memory of which remained strong in our blood and our hearts. But with sincere effort on both sides, there came better mutual understanding and satisfaction. It was a test of our racial instinct to accept the best that our foster parents had to offer and to reject what was unsuited to our racial tradition. I believe that we came out very well in that test, even if we cannot claim complete success. Like any individual in the same circumstances, we acquired many of the virtues our national foster parents tried to pass on to us, but we also absorbed some of their faults.

From Spain we took and adapted for our use the great moral and spiritual force of Christianity. But we also were too much impressed with the importance of prestige and position, too ready to acquire attitudes of distaste for labor or commerce.

America added to our native love of freedom a political philosophy that proclaimed the right of individuals and nations to freedom and self-determination, that called for tolerance and equality of opportunity for all men. Education, we were told, must not be for the privileged few, but must become available to all who wished to better themselves. America's doctrine of the individual's duty to the community found a sympathetic response in the ancient traditions of our race. Self-reliance, fair play, pride in our national heritage and our national heroes—these were all part of American teachings and did much to equip us for national maturity. But here again we did not escape some of the unwholesome influences of the relationship.

To many of us forget the courageous pioneers who built America, and took as models the unscrupulous promoters condemned by Americans themselves. Too many of us never got past Hollywood. Too many ignored the responsibility of maturity and continued to lean on paternal protection and generosity.

But these are all faults which are not uncommon to youth. If the basic individual is sound, they disappear with age and experience. Likewise, if the nation is sound, it becomes the good citizen and the good neighbor of the world.

To know what we want to be as a nation, we need only ask ourselves what we want to be as individuals.

We want health, strength, and skill to be a good provider and to enjoy the benefits of modern living. We want to express and broaden our cultural heritage, to develop and take pride in our racial talents. We want to live this life with Divine help and guidance, and we recognize the moral and spiritual obligations that merit such blessings.

To live this national life, to make the most of our talents and our virtues, we need security in our home and we must forge mutually beneficial relationships with friendly nations. We need sources of skills and materials we lack, and markets in which to exchange the fruits of our productive enterprise for what we desire from others. We need the leisure, the means, and the stimulation to broaden our cultural horizons.

In normal times, the needs are the rights of free men and free nations, but today we must win them and protect them by the quality of our citizenship in the world community and by the firm application to our everyday living of the principles and morality we claim as our own.

For the common security we need, we contribute what we can afford. Our force in Korea, our participation in the United Nations, working for freedom and against subversion or aggression, are examples.

No man, except one satisfied with a bare existence, can live alone. No nation desiring a rising standard of living for its people is economically independent. Skills, finances and markets—only with these can a nation's own wealth be turned into a better life for its people. Where they are lacking, they must be sought by friendly cooperation.

In other words, the kind of "healthy nationalism" we want is that mature spirit of self-confidence which takes freedom as a right not to be challenged, a right to be part of the free world, not to withdraw from it.

As individuals and as a nation, we have faith in the democratic process and in government by law. For this reason, we believe that the law-abiding community of nations holds the key to world peace and security. And it is only in such atmosphere that true nationalism for small as well as large nations can survive against the attacks of those who claim that force, lies, and subversion are legitimate instruments of policy.

This conflict between law and violence makes the obligations of world citizenship today a grave responsibility. It calls for farsighted wisdom, for sound judgment; it calls for dignity and restraint, for a mature faith in our ability to protect our interests. In such national behavior lies the strength of free world unity and the survival of nationalism itself.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, by the National University, Sunday afternoon, March 21, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1007-1010.

**Address of President Magsaysay to the Convention of Chinese Chambers of Commerce Chinese Trade Associations in the Philippines Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the Convention of Chinese Chambers of Commerce Chinese Trade Associations in the Philippines**

[Delivered on March 26, 1954]

I AM very happy to greet this convention, and I wish to express the hope that your discussions and deliberations here will be most useful to you and to the community in which you live.

Most of you, I believe, have lived in this country for many years. You have enjoyed freedom here and you have prospered. I ask you to remember at all times that you owe this freedom and prosperity to the fact that you live in a democratic community that is proud to count itself as a part of the free world.

Today, this free world of ours is under attack. The enemy is Communism, and its goal is the destruction of freedom and the enslavement of the individual under a dictatorship of terror.

You do not have to be told of the misery and suffering that Communism brings wherever it has grabbed power. Many of you know this from the bitter experience of friends and relatives trapped behind the Iron Curtain in your homeland. Many of you know the clever and vicious methods used by Communists to undermine free nations and bring them to their knees. What all of you here today must realize is that those methods are used right now—constantly—against this nation in which you live and prosper.

You cannot combat this menace by wishing that it will disappear, by merely standing with folded arms and hoping it will never disturb you. You *can* defeat it only by constant vigilance and action. To exercise such vigilance and to take active part in the effort against Communism is the duty you owe to the community, the safeguard you owe to yourself and your children.

This nation stands firmly in the ranks of the free world. We are committed to a program of vigilance against the encroachments of communism both from within and from without. We are strengthening our military defenses in every way that is practical, and contributing what we can to collective security against aggression.

But military measures in fighting Communism—while important—are not enough. It is on the social front and on the economic front that the enemy can be met and defeated now. This is where you can and must do your part in defending your own freedom and you own well-being.

What are some of the things you can do?

The strength of the free world is in its unity. The enemy knows this and so tries to destroy that unity by every means. In the face of this strategy of the enemy, your duty is to unite in the struggle against Communism regardless of the differences that may divide you in other matters. In exposing communist influences within your own ranks and uprooting them, you will perform an important service to this nation as well as to yourselves.

In a community as large as yours, there are bound to be a few who spoil the reputation of the many. Clean your own house of these undesirable elements and you will achieve stronger unity with your Filipino neighbors.

Many of you are already proving that you can be a strong and constructive force in the life of the community. The “Liberty Wells” program is an example. I am glad that you have demonstrated initiative and zeal in every civic effort to improve the living standards of your community, to reduce the poverty and discontent in which communism breeds.

To strengthen this democracy, we must expand our economy to a point where it provides employment and a decent standard of living for all. Efforts are being made to provide incentives for more and more of our own people to take a greater part in this expansion and development program. This should not alarm you. There is room and need for all who are willing to invest in the future of this country. Your community represents a powerful economic force. Used constructively, this force will always be a welcome ally in our common fight for a strong democracy.

Our common and most pressing enemy is communism. You must concentrate on exposing and defeating its plans. Our common is to build a strong democracy; you can play a mutually beneficial role in this task as a welcome partner. What differences exist between your people and ours are minor and result from the misbehavior of only a very small fraction of your industrious and law-abiding community. We know you can solve this problem among yourselves. For the rest, you may be sure that you are welcome, as good neighbors, to take your place in the affairs of our community, contributing your best effort to the common task of building a stable and prosperous democracy in which freedom is secure.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay addresses the convention of Chinese Chambers of Commerce Chinese Trade Associations in the Philippines, March 26, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1010-1012.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the turn-over of farm implements to the Philippine Government under “Operation Philippines”

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the turn-over of farm implements to the Philippine Government under “Operation Philippines”**

[Delivered at Pier 13, March 28, 1954]

I AM most happy to accept, in behalf of the Filipino people and government, this valuable, useful, timely gift given to us by the American people through the initiative and organizational efforts of the California and the Nevada Lions and our own Philippine Lions. Measured in terms of material value and usefulness, this donation will bring back to productive life thousands of hectares of idle land and will increase the yield of many more farms which today are growing only a fraction of what they should because of the lack of the necessary implements. This shipment, furthermore, could not have arrived at a better time, for you know that this administration has set among its foremost goals the improvement of our rural areas and the enhancement of the living standards of our farmers. The clothing, the equipment, the implements, and the monetary gift that have just been turned over to our government for distribution to our farming population will give us a big push towards the fulfillment of these objectives.

Over and above these material factors, this donation acquires even deeper and more far-reaching significance and timeliness from the spirit that has made it possible. The Filipinos need not be told how much unselfish toil, generosity, and enthusiasm on the part of the American people went into the realization of this project. The total amount of equipment and materials that were finally collected speaks for itself.

Furthermore, while “Operation Philippines” enjoyed the blessings and support of the Philippine and the American governments, it was by and large a popular, grass-roots project. It was carried on and brought to success by the free initiative of the American people, acting not under the compulsion of a government directive but under the tender impulse of their feelings of affection for the Filipinos. It was a spontaneous demonstration of one people’s solicitude and regard for another.

In other words, “Operation Philippines” is a cooperative project that could have been possible only between two peoples bound together by genuine ties of mutual respect and affection. I am glad that this ceremony demonstrates this fact anew to both our American friends and our own people at this time, because there are indications of a systematic campaign to undermine the relations between our peoples, to whip up antagonism between us.

I do not refer to the honest and sober discussions of our relationships with the United States which have been carried on lately by responsible elements and organs of opinion on both sides. The free and dispassionate discussion of issues, aimed at arriving at the truth and not at instigating rancor and bitterness, is a vital part of democracy. It is another thing altogether, however, to resort to deliberate falsehood and invention in an attempt to stir ill-will between our two peoples. This can be described only as sabotage, inspired—for all we know—by those who have adopted the strategy of trying to divide the free world to serve their own evil ends.

I have a particular case in mind. A few days ago, there appeared in the local press a news story, purporting to come from Washington, which dealt with alleged American plans to barter revision of the trade act for favorable action on the bases question. The story immediately attracted suspicion because of its vague references and lack of source, despite the fact that it bore a Washington date-line. It was for this reason, by the way, that Malacañang declined to make any comment on the story after it had appeared despite numerous requests, because the veracity of the report was very much open to question.

Investigation by the manager of the bureau which put out the dispatch had revealed that the original transmission from Washington neither stated nor implied the offensive part of the report. It was a sheer and absolute fabrication

by somebody in the agency's Manila office, and its complete falsity has been exposed by an explicit denial in Washington.

I do not know how to explain this incident, except to offer the obvious fact that a deliberate attempt was made, either through grave irresponsibility or methodical design, to drive a wedge between the Philippines and the United States. What makes it more reprehensible is the fact that our own press, which I know to be generally fair and responsible and which reflects our own people's genuine sense of friendship for the American people, was also made an innocent victim. I assume it vigorously condemns this assault upon its good faith.

This is the kind of propaganda which, while damaging in its own way, fortunately is overwhelmed by the massive reality of Philippine-American friendship as exemplified by such undertakings as "Operation Philippines." It is timely, as I said, that this turn-over re-affirms this relationship anew. Our two governments will soon sit face to face in negotiations to resolve some important and vital issues. Already, as I have pointed out, a campaign has begun to shroud these talks with an air of hostility, to create mistrust and ill-feeling between our respective representatives. While I wish to alert our people to this malicious campaign, I know and I am confident that it will fail.

The good-will, the friendship, the affection existing between our two peoples, built up over the years through war and peace and through various strains and stresses and freshly re-enforced by this donation, will shape the environment in which these negotiations will be held. We will meet and discuss those issues as friends, respecting and trusting each other to find a common, just, and satisfactory point of agreement. Behind us will be a background of more than 50 years of warm comradeship, and ahead of us will be our determination to keep firm our partnership with each other against the new slavery that threatens the ideals and way of life we share in common. Permit me to recall at this point that a similar campaign to set us apart from the United States was waged in this country not so long ago, and that our people overwhelmingly repudiated it. The mandate given to us was to preserve and enhance our friendship.

I ask you, Mr. President, to convey to the people of the United States—and particularly to the Lions of California and Nevada—the gratitude and appreciation of the Filipino people and government for their kind generosity. For my own part, I am especially touched by their whole-hearted response to an appeal which I had the privilege of personally addressing to them two years ago. I wish also to commend the Philippine Lions for following through so well with their end of the project. I pledge to all of you that this administration will carry through just as well.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's speech at the turn-over of farm implements to the Philippine Government under "Operation Philippines" at Pier 13, Sunday, March 28, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1012-1014.

**Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Engineering,
Honoris Causa**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Engineering,
Honoris Causa, by the FEATI Institute of Technology**

[Delivered on March 29, 1954]

THE honor you have conferred on me represents, in a sense, the fulfillment of a youthful ambition. I had started out to be an engineer, but the strain of combining a strenuous livelihood with serious study told on my health and forced the suspension of my studies, until eventually I had to abandon engineering entirely. The pain of that renunciation is assuaged somewhat by the honor you have just conferred on me. I hope I prove myself worthy by hurdling the most difficult engineering problem that perhaps could confront any Filipino, and that is, to make the heavy, cumbersome, complicated machinery of our government function smoothly and efficiently, that it may generate the benefits and services which our people have a right to expect from it.

It is gratifying to see that so many of you have chosen to pursue a career in technological fields. You have made a wise decision that will benefit not only yourselves but the country as well. From a purely selfish stand-point, you will find the field of technology fertile with opportunities for jobs, advancement, and success. This field will grow and expand as the years go by, as our development progresses and our industries rise and prosper. The prospect ahead of you is one of continuous opportunity, so unlike the specter of disillusionment and stagnation that hovers over some glutted professions.

It is not you alone, however, who will profit from the training and education you have obtained in this institution. Our country, our people, the generations to come, will be the beneficiaries. I do not exaggerate when I say that one of the most serious draw-backs to our progress and development is the deficiency of our technical man-power. You will help relieve this problem, and in effect you will be helping this country move faster and more efficiently towards the realizations of the goals that we have set.

I expect that soon you will be applying your specialized skills and technical know-how to specific functions. There is no doubt but that the substance of what you will have to offer will contribute to our general store of accomplishments. Over and above concrete and immediate results, however, I expect you to bring a new spirit to your respective spheres of activity.

You have been trained to think and act in terms of new machines and modern inventions. You have been taught to keep pace with swift, constant advances in science and technology. I ask you, wherever the future may take you, to bring with you this spirit of confidence in the progress of man, that you may infect our more timid countrymen with the same sense of self-assurance so essential to survival and progress in this age of wonders. There is danger, unless our people become properly oriented, that progress may pass us by, that we may lag hopelessly behind the rest of the world. The country will depend on you to wear down and destroy this resistance to progress, that our people may learn to accept and use, for their own advancement and well-being, the tools and wondrous blessings of their age.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay on the occasion of his acceptance of the degree of Doctor of Engineering, *Honoris Causa*, by the FEATI Institute of Technology, Monday, March 29, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1014-1015.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the laying of the cornerstone of the National Press Club Building

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the laying of the cornerstone of the National Press Club Building**

[Released on April 4, 1954]

OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB,
MY FRIENDS OF THE PRESS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I CANNOT think of a more pleasant and satisfying task than the one I have just been called upon to perform. The cornerstone we have just laid represents another concrete step towards the erection on this site of a building that will be a monument to the vitality and vigor of our press, a symbol of its basic unity, and the center of its activities and efforts that will serve to increase that vitality and strengthen its unity.

Laying a cornerstone, however, is just the beginning of a difficult task that will require the most and the best that is in you. You will face many trying problems and many tedious chores. I assure you that at every turn, you will meet with the assistance, understanding, and sympathy of this administration, beginning with myself. But the larger burden of seeing this project through will be yours. The patience and unflagging enthusiasm which alone can sustain it to completion will have to come from you.

The most important thing is that you must be united. I understand you have just held your election of officers, and that it was a spirited and lively affair. That is as it should be, whenever free men gather together to choose freely and honestly from their own ranks those with whom to entrust authority and responsibility. It should also be, however, that after the last word of debate has been uttered and the last vote counted, the decision should be respected and all should close ranks. This is the duty that clearly confronts each and everyone of you now—to work with one another, support one another, help one another towards the realization of this cherished project.

All of you know that it was the past administration—of course with the whole-hearted cooperation of what was then the minority—that made possible the grant of this property on which to construct your building. Under this new administration, you may depend on the same—if not greater measure of support and cooperation. This continuity shows that the welfare and advancement of the press, the enhancement of its prestige, and the promotion of the well-being of its members, are the concern, not of the impermanent administrations, but of the government, of the people whom the government represents. It is to the people that the press owes the assistance it has obtained and will continue to receive on this project, and it is to them only that it has to pay its debt in the only currency that its creditors will accept—faithful and honest reporting. To no one else should the press feel beholden or indebted.

I wish to reiterate, for my part and on the behalf of this administration, that we expect the press to continue doing its duty—to report the facts honestly, fearlessly, and accurately, never sparing evil and ever encouraging what is good and just. This—no more and no less—is what all of us have a right to expect from our press, and this I know we will get from it.

There is much work ahead. With patience and determination, with enthusiasm and unity, you can and you will carry through. I hope next year's convention will be held at the National Press Building that will have arisen here. One privilege I should like to reserve, God willing, is that of being with you when you do inaugurate that building. I look forward to sharing with you the felicity of that day.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Ramon Magsaysay's speech at the laying of the cornerstone of the National Press Club Bldg., April 4, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), 1533-1534.

**Speech of President Magsaysay on “Bataan Day” Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On “Bataan Day”**

[Delivered on April 9, 1954]

DISTINGUISHED
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

GUESTS,

TWELVE years ago, the armed forces radio on Corregidor, known as the Voice of Freedom, broadcast its last bitter message to the world.

It said: “Bataan has fallen.”

Many have asked since, “Why should we commemorate a defeat? Why should we keep alive the painful memory of Bataan?”

Part of the answer to these questions was given by the Voice of Freedom on that same fateful broadcast.

We recall those words now. “What sustained the men of Bataan through these months of incessant battle,”—said the message—“was a force that was more than physical. It was the force of an unconquerable faith—something in the heart and soul that physical hardship and adversity could not destroy The spirit that made Bataan stand cannot fall.”

It is this spirit of fortitude, endurance, and faith that we commemorate when we observe the fall of Bataan.

In this sense, Bataan is one of the great triumphs of man. It has become a symbol of the power of the human spirit to rise above adversity, a symbol of its capacity to survive against the dark forces which seek its destruction.

This priceless spirit was what impelled our American friends and allies to fight their way back, through a hundred outposts of heroism, across the Pacific. And it was also this spirit which enabled our own people to stay in the hills and mount an increasingly victorious battle against the powerful enemy.

But if Bataan has been a triumph, it has also taught—in the years since—a very stern lesson. And this is, that it would be foolish—and perhaps fatal—to remain complacent against our enemies, potential and actual.

Three months ago, we said that our first and principal concern was the security of the nation. Nothing has changed in our situation since then. The same urgency prevails. If we repeat this now, it is only to emphasize the necessity for adequate solutions as it lies in our power to make them.

We must, therefore, exert all our efforts towards the strengthening of our defenses. It is my grave responsibility, as chief executive, to see to it that the state is kept secure against all internal and external threats. I mean to discharge this responsibility with energy and decision.

The fresh outbreak of Communist activity in neighboring countries underscores the fact that this peril—far from lessening—has been creeping forward at a steady pace.

Nor should the apparent inactivity of the Communists within our own borders fool us. It is true that we have crushed the striking power of the Huk armies as a military force. But their power to corrupt the mind remains. The Huks, in short, have ceased to be a force without ever ceasing to be a threat.

We stress this struggle for internal and external security because it is undeniably a part of the trust we have inherited from the defenders of Bataan.

The men whose graves lie on Mount Samat died to maintain the integrity of our frontiers and in this way preserve for us and our descendants the continued blessings of the democratic way of life which we have chosen for ourselves.

In the fight against Communism, we have found ourselves ranged beside a nation whose sons—together with ours—died on this same spot twelve years ago.

We are happy to think that by that single act of common sacrifice, America and the Philippines have forged a further link in a relationship already unique in the history of nations.

This occasion—and the memories it evokes of a great joint undertaking—attests to the strength of the traditional friendship between our two peoples. It is our hope that in the years to come, the American and the Filipino people will continue to face their common problems and common perils in the same spirit of loyalty to democratic ideals which guided the men of Bataan.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's "Bataan Day" speech, April 9, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), 1538-1539.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the First National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
On the occasion of the First National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines**

[Delivered in Balara, Quezon City, April 23, 1954]

MR. VARGAS,
MR. PANGILINAN,
BROTHER SCOUTS:

MANY of you will recall that during the last presidential campaign a few of my critics spread the word that I did not deserve to be taken seriously because I was—in their own word—“only a boy scout.”

I was a boy scout because I prized honesty and integrity above all virtues.

I was a boy scout because I pledged myself to the defense of the poor and the weak.

I was a boy scout because I had risked my life—and continue to do so—in defense of our country.

I am not sure if those critics realized clearly what they meant when they called me a boy scout, but I do know that this was one of the highest compliments I had ever received. And this afternoon, you have confirmed this compliment by inducting me as “tenderfoot” in your organization. If my critics are still around, I would like to inform them that—as of today—I am officially a boy scout proud of that distinction.

You are opening your first National Jamboree today.

This is of course a historic moment in the Boy Scout movement in the Philippines. I do not know if this place—Balara—was chosen as the site for your jamboree because of its historical association, but you could hardly have picked a more appropriate one. For right here—where your tents stand and where you will work and play for the duration of your jamboree—was where Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros established their first field headquarters during the revolution.

In a sense, the Katipuneros were our first organized group of boy scouts. I am not trying to make a joke. They were patriots, but no one has ever been a patriot without having in abundance those qualities and virtues which constitute the ideal of all boy scouts. I mean that the Katipuneros had courage, loyalty, love of country, and an overwhelming sense of responsibility for the fate of their fellowmen.

Today, no set of virtues is more clearly needed by our people. We are trying to build a future which shall be free from fear and free from want, and in this great collective enterprise, everyone—the young and the old alike—has his important role to play.

All of you have heard of the Huks. Many of you may even have had a first-hand experience of the havoc caused by this misguided band of men. As long as they persist in their beliefs, they are enemies of our people, for they wish to destroy the liberty and freedom which we have won for ourselves at the great sacrifice of life and comfort.

Many of you have also heard of the war in Korea. Our countrymen fought in that war while the fighting lasted, and a great number of them were killed in battles against the Communists. Those Communists are our enemies, too, for they wish to destroy that atmosphere of peace and concord among men in which alone the happiness of the human race could flourish.

Do not make a mistake. The Huks have been partly destroyed as an organization and the Korean Communists have agreed to a temporary peace, but fighting still goes on in many of our neighboring countries—in China, in Malaya, and in Indo-China.

There is a war in Europe, too, but though this war is conducted across the conference tables and not on the fields of battle, the same basic problem of Democracy *vs.* Communism is the great issue which must be resolved.

In this world-wide struggle, all of us have a stake—particularly you. On the results of this war will depend whether you— and your brothers and sisters—will have a future in which you could think, work, and play as you

choose; or whether you would think, work, and play only as the Communist tyrants would wish you to.

Clearly, you are on the side of Democracy. But how can you help win this war?

You can help win this war if you are steadfast in your purposes, courageous in carrying them out, and at all times loyal to your ideals.

This, I believe, is the meaning of the boy scout movement. But beyond that—and in a larger sense—this is also the meaning of citizenship in a democracy.

I am confident that with your high ideals and the actual practice you have had in cooperative living, Democracy will have worthy guardians in you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay on the occasion of the First National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, in Balara, Quezon City, April 23, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), 1540-1542.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Philippine Medical Association

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Philippine Medical Association

[Delivered at the Far Eastern University Auditorium, April 26, 1954]

MR. PRESIDENT,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

A GREAT PHYSICIAN, Sir William Osler, once said that there are only two sorts of doctors—those who practice with their brains and those who practice with their tongues. While I have no doubt as to which category the members of this distinguished group belong, I am not at all sure that it is not a good thing for doctors—on occasions like the present seminar—to be able to practice with their tongues, too.

Some prescriptions are best prepared by sitting around a table and pooling common knowledge and resources.

The subject of your forthcoming conference is “Rural Health Program.” This is, of course, one of our most important national problems.

Last year, I had the privilege of discussing before you my own viewpoints on public health and how the government could improve its services to meet the needs of the greatest number of people. Since assuming office, I have had a first-hand view of the facts and I am, if anything, more than ever convinced that the suggestions I had made in that earlier speech should be implemented as rapidly as our means would permit.

Let me review some of those suggestions:

First, a comprehensive program directed at the eradication of the most common diseases which afflicted the rural population.

Second, the improvement of present health facilities and the extension of services to remote localities.

Third, the establishment in strategic areas of medical centers built around a corps of specialists.

And finally, the training of public health officers and the encouragement—possibly in the form of subsidies on a fixed tenure—of young general practitioners to settle in *barrios* and small towns where their services are most urgently needed.

Such a broad program inevitably raises its own difficulties, but I hope I am not being over-optimistic when I say that our department of health has prepared a plan which will at least meet the minimum and essential health requirements of our population.

The initial necessity is funds. Accordingly, I have recommended to Congress an additional outlay of almost three-and-a-half million pesos for the Department of Health. With this modest amount, I trust that a reasonable start in implementing the new rural health policies could be assured. While a portion of this appropriation will be diverted to the purchase of medical supplies to alleviate current critical shortages, a substantial amount will be expended on the two major aspects of public health service—namely, preventive and curative medicine.

In line with this policy, a massive, full-scale attack has been launched against preventable but widespread diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, gastroenteritis, yaws and intestinal parasites. Mass BCG inoculation service against tuberculosis is being intensified, and the campaign against intestinal parasites among school children is being pursued with vigor. Even more encouraging is the success achieved so far in the treatment of yaws—a highly debilitating disease—among farmlands, as a result of which the afflicted are enabled to return to work within a reasonable period of time.

Another aspect of public health work which has been showing encouraging progress is the elimination of health hazard in land development areas—such as those for agricultural or settlement purposes. Many of these have now been made attractive from a medical point of view.

Hand in hand with these activities, existing government hospitals are being rapidly equipped with modern and more serviceable equipment. While present facilities are being brought up to the most desirable standards, plans are also being readied for the construction of a more adequate number of hospitals, equipped with up-to-date laboratories and manned by skilled and well-trained staffs. You know that good medicine cannot be practiced without such facilities. I hope that the construction of the North General Hospital in the near future will mean the start of an increasingly successful hospital program.

Earlier in this speech, I reiterated the need for medical centers, situated at strategic locations, as a means whereby town and country patients could avail themselves of the services of specialists with the least possible waste of time and money. In view of unavoidable financial limitations, however, this project may not be immediately realized. But you will be pleased to know that the Department of Health has initiated training courses in radiology techniques and anesthesiology. The courses will eventually be expanded to cover training in other specialty services. I hope, through this means, that we can develop a sufficient potential of specialists from which we may draw as soon as finances permit the operation of the proposed medical centers.

With respect to the plan to divert medical practice to the *barrios*, I can only express my keenest expectation that a feasible way will be found to induce the members of your profession—especially the younger ones—to do so. I am aware that this has its drawbacks for the ambitious young doctor. But that drawback will certainly not be loss of prestige. I say this because I am convinced that in the *barrios* and *sitios* today lie the opportunities for performing one of the great humanitarian tasks of our time.

In this country, doctors—like expensive coffee—are in short supply. One expert has estimated that in a country with ideal medical services, there should be at least one doctor for every one thousand people. When we compare our own figures to this ideal estimate, the results are somewhat alarming. There are no doctors in *barrios* with a population of less than 2,500. And while every town has a government physician, this official often has to provide medical care to as many as 25,000 to 30,000 people. The consequence is that, among the rural population, a great majority live and die without having had the services of a physician.

This is the tragic situation which we wish to correct. There should be no further delay. We must combine all our efforts to remedy the unjust neglect into which our *barrio* population has fallen.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of this task. The state of our public health has an ultimate bearing on our efforts to develop and stabilize the national economy, for a country's most important natural resource has always been its manpower potential and the capacity of this potential for productive activity. Cripple it and you cripple the national effort at building a free and prosperous country.

I have commented before on the low productivity of our labor force. Many causes contribute to produce this condition, but we cannot safely discount the influence of health as a factor which can mitigate against low productivity, or—on the other hand—increase the productive capacity of our labor force.

The sick man does not produce enough for his needs and thereby becomes impoverished. The poor man does not get sufficient food and thereby falls prey to disease. This is the vicious circle from which our less fortunate countrymen cannot, without our direct aid, extricate themselves.

We need more doctors. We need more hospitals and laboratories. We need, finally, the fullest development of our public health services.

I have pledged my administration to the attainment of these objectives, but in a sense this is a goal which can be achieved only with the active and unselfish cooperation of all our citizens.

I know, however, that—in keeping with the spirit which guides your noble profession—you have already committed yourselves to this common venture of raising the level of the nation's health and assuring for ourselves and our children the blessings which only health and well-being can give. We can keep on looking ahead.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's speech before the Philippine Medical Association at the FEU Auditorium, April 26, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), 1542-1545.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines, giving of awards

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines, giving of awards**

[Delivered at the Riviera, May 4, 1954]

Mr. CALLEJA,
GENTLEMEN PRESS,
DISTINGUISHED LEADERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WISH to express my appreciation at having been given this opportunity to offer a brief review of the business policies of my administration and to trace the steps which we have taken to implement those policies.

First of all, let me repeat my assurance that business will get a fair deal under my administration. No one will be forced out of business through unilateral action on the part of the government. On the contrary, legitimate business will be given all the protection it deserves and all the encouragement it needs.

Some confused pessimist have been saying that business conditions have deteriorated, and that they will continue to get worse instead of better.

These are counsels of fear.

Necessarily, the achievement of our goals will take some time. It will mean a lot of hard work and patience. But we have set into motion a number of long-range projects which I am sure will alleviate the temporary difficulties under which business labors today.

If there has been a business slowdown, we may attribute this partly to the great world-wide shift from a war-time to a peacetime economy, to the consequences of which the Philippines has not been exempt.

More significantly, the present business slowdown has been the consequence of our lack of economic planning in the past, the result of our failure to adjust to a program of austerity soon enough and quickly enough.

The first thing that my administration has sought to do, therefore, has been to correct this costly error.

To begin with, we have mapped out a new economic program. This program will involve the expenditure of around four billion pesos within a period of five years, or at the rate of P800 million a year.

More than half of this cost will be borne by private enterprise; the rest will be shouldered by the government. To help the government defray its share of expenses, a bill is now pending in Congress which seeks to float P800 million in bonds.

We want to make sure, however, that this program will be properly carried out and that the allotted funds will be effectively used. To this end, therefore, we have revitalized the National Economic Council, which has been invested with broad powers in the implementation of the national economic program.

One important function of the council is the establishment of a priority system in the enterprises to be developed and expanded. This system has to be set up owing to the fact that our resources are limited, and we must distribute them

in such manner that the maximum benefits can be obtained. This means the priority in the allocation of exchange will be given to the more essential business enterprises, and that the distribution of public works, such as the construction of roads, wharves, railroads, and electric plants, will jibe with and complement the system of priorities for economic development.

I am sure this assurance will make all of you happy, since one of the most persistent complaints of businessmen is the unavoidable delay and confusion in the release of funds and the consequent loss of time in starting industrial operations. The priority system will correct all that.

Hand in hand with this program, we are reorganizing our tax collection machinery. We need money not only for the operation of our government but also for financing our development projects. Lax collection methods in the past have caused the loss of a tremendous amount of revenue which otherwise could have been utilized for the improvement of existing services to taxpayers, or the creation of new ones.

In this connection, I wish to assure you that at present the government has no intention of raising the present tax rates. On the contrary, the government intends to encourage business by lessening the burden of taxation on those who feel that they cannot operate freely owing to high taxes and high production costs.

Moreover, we hope to provide further encouragement to business enterprises by exempting from the payment of taxes all new and necessary industries.

To the hard-pressed industries needing financial assistance from the government in the form of tax exemptions or direct financial aid, I wish to give assurance that their needs will be studied thoroughly and that help will be extended to them in accordance with the government's capacity to meet their needs.

We are not going to allow old industries to die because of neglect on our part and thus needlessly throw more people out of work. On the other hand, we cannot allow new industries to languish because of our failure to sense their most urgent needs.

This brings me to the subject of controls. The imposition of controls has been cited as the principal deterrent not only to the inflow of new capital into local industries but also to the entry of foreign capital here.

These controls were never intended to be permanent.

They have been instituted as a palliative, as a stop-gap measure designed to check the drain on our foreign exchange reserves and thus stabilize our international reserve position. We have to do this not only to put our economy in a stable position but also to make possible the smooth implementation of our development program.

I am happy our businessmen have shared this broad view of controls. Ultimately, controls are designed to protect our newly established industries by restricting the inflow of imports.

Prospective foreign investors, on the other hand, fear controls under the impression that they might not be able to remit their profits or transfer their capital. This fear is unfounded. Present regulations permit both the remittance of profits and the transfer of capital, subject only to the condition that such will not jeopardize the national economy.

I am sure that those foreign investors who are interested in investing in the long-term future of the country, and who are not concerned merely with making a "quick killing," will find these conditions sufficiently flexible to permit large-scale business operations.

As I said, the imposition of controls is a strictly temporary measure. It will be lifted just as soon as our international exchange position is made stable.

In our all-out effort to establish a sound economy, I have stressed strongly the rural aspect. This is because of my belief that the barrio is the fundamental starting point of any program which seeks to revitalize the economy and raise the living standards of the people. Better living standards mean an increase in the purchasing power, and an increase in purchasing power will mean better participation in the fruits of the land among the rural inhabitants who compose 75 per cent of our population.

As long as the bulk of our population remains below the optimum standards of living, there is no hope that we can create a strong middle class which forms the strongest bulwark of every democratic state. And such a middle class ultimately constitutes the firmest support for business in a free enterprise system.

I have no wish to be over-confident, nor do I wish to minimize the known hazards that lie along our course. But I believe that the long-term prospect which faces us is a happy one.

To achieve our goals, however, will involve all our energy and patience, all our capacity for sustained applications, and all the faith and goodwill that we can summon. The task in our time, as I see it, is to lay the foundations of our future on a secure and solid a basis as we can make it.

I trust that we have begun to do so.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the Business Writers Association of the Philippines, giving of awards, at the Riviera, Tuesday evening, May 4, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(5), 1958-1961.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Public Schools Superintendents

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Public Schools Superintendents**

[Delivered at the U. P. Home Economics Building, May 13, 1954]

DISTINGUISHED
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

SUPERINTENDENTS,

I CAN REMEMBER when the *maestro*—in his inevitable *americana and necktie*—was an object of respect, affection, and even of veneration.

Then the wheel turned. For years, no one was more neglected than the poor *maestro*. In social functions, he counted least; his opinions mattered little even in his specialized field of education; and worst of all, he was tolerated as a sort of necessary evil, expendable except for the fact that the children must learn their alphabets.

In my administration, we propose to challenge all that. We wish to restore the teacher to his proper position of dignity and authority, and we wish to grant him that measure of independence he needs for the fullest exercise of his responsibilities and duties.

In making this assurance, I merely underscore the fact that sound, fully democratic education is one of the basic objectives of this administration.

Moreover, I wish to emphasize that in the pursuit of this objective, the school teachers and officials inevitably play the key roles. If these roles sometimes seem to lack glamor, they are nevertheless of the highest significance to the future of our country.

Someone has said that if you win the youth, you win the future. This truism has been perverted by the totalitarians and utilized for the attainment of their own sinister ends.

We, too, wish to win the youth—but not to a slavish and unquestioning devotion to any set of dogmas. On the contrary, we wish to win them over to the appreciation and recognition of the principle and spirit of free and intelligent inquiry.

This is the meaning of democratic education.

Today, we live in a divided world. Our survival in it depends on the kind of decisions that we make.

It is therefore imperative that we learn the issues in their correct light and that we make discriminations and choices among facts undistorted by bias or the desire to mislead.

Needless to say, democratic education must start from the ground up. An education which provides tools only to a self-constituted upper-class elite is worthless. It encourages dangerous delusions among the “educated” and it promotes a grievous social cleavage in which the great majority are prevented from expressing their aspirations and therefore loses touch with the government which is supposed to represent them.

In a word, this kind of education hinders rather than promotes the growth of democracy.

We cannot—and we must not allow this to happen. Fifty years of training in the democratic principles have impressed on us the rightness and fitness of this way of life for our people. We cannot permit it to be endangered so easily.

The object of our national educational policy is not just to produce literate people—meaning people who can read and write—admirable as that is, but to produce people fully equipped to participate in the community activities. The object, in short, is to produce complete citizens—aware of their environment and able, through their training, to adjust themselves to it.

Only through this means can we hope to make democracy mean something to our people.

Through this means, too, we insure the perpetuation of those principles for which, many times in our history, we have given up our very lives.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's speech before public schools superintendents at the U. P. Home Economics Building, Thursday evening, May 13, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(5), 1961-1962.

Speech of President Magsaysay upon accepting the credentials of the Ambassador of Spain [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Ramon Magsaysay
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagtanggap ng kredensiyal ng Embahador ng Espanya**

[Ipinahayag sa ika 15 ng Hunyo, 1954]

BUONG puso namin kayong tinatanggap sa aming bayan. Makikita ninyo sa Pilipinas ang dating adhikain at damdamin ng aming bayang sinakop ng Espanya sa loob ng mahigit na 300 taon. Ang damdamin at adhikain ding yaon ang ginagamit naming kalasag sa pagbaka sa komunismo, gaya ng ginawa ninyong pagbaka sa suliranin ding yaon sa pangunguna ng magiting ninyong heneral na si Francisco Franco.

Nababatid kong titigil kayo rito na gaya ng gagawin ninyong pagtigil sa inyong sariling bansa, sapagka't ang ugali namin ay kahawig ng ugali ninyo dahil sa pangyayaring nilukuban kami ng Espanya sa loob ng mahigit na 300 taon. Sa gayon ay hindi lubhang nagkakaiba ang ating mga lunggatiin at damdamin.

Sa madidilim na araw ng aming kasaysayan bilang isang lahi, ang Espanya ay nag-iwan sa aming puso at damdamin ng isang hindi madalumat na lakas na siya naming ipinangbabaka sa komunismo ngayon.

Malugod kong pinag-uukulan ng matayog na papuri ang Espanya dahil sa tandisang pagbaka sa komunismo, na siya rin naming ginagawa rito.

Inuulit kong malugod namin kayong tinatanggap sa aming bansa at binabati ko si Hen. Franco.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Sa pagtanggap ng Pangulo sa kredensiyal ng Embahador ng Espanya, Hunyo 15, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(6), 2431-2432.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Armed Forces testimonial parade and review

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Armed Forces testimonial parade and review**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, July 3, 1954]

TO THE MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES:

FOR some years now we have been closely tied by the common bond of serving our nation, of securing its defense against attacks from within our borders, and against outside aggression. Throughout these years I have had no reason to regret the confidence I have placed in you. I have had every reason to be proud of your courage, loyalty, and devotion to duty.

In the earliest days of our relationship, there were two enemies for us to fight. One was the enemy within your own ranks, the unscrupulous and selfish member of the Armed Forces whose behaviour smeared the entire organization with disrepute. This enemy, I am happy to say, you quickly brought under control and gradually eliminated. You restored the good name of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. You regained the confidence of the citizens whom it is your sworn duty to defend and protect. In doing so, you have won a major battle in the war of our times.

The other enemy was the world-wide Communist conspiracy. Here in the Philippines, professional Communist agents were enjoying great success in a carefully laid plot to undermine the foundations of our Republic, to destroy our democratic institutions, and to make of Malacañang merely a branch office of the Kremlin. They were assisted in this plan by post-war conditions of destruction, misery, and corruption. They became sufficiently strong to rob, murder, and terrorize the majority of our people who refused to be taken in by their false promises. Your success in checking this attack upon the Republic and destroying the military strength of the aggressor is one of the proudest pages in the history of the Armed Forces.

In the course of these years, you have engaged the Communist enemy outside of our borders as well. Responding to the call of our obligations as a member of the United Nations, you joined with the other armies of the free world in repelling Communist aggression upon the Republic of Korea. On frozen battlefields far from home you demonstrated your nation's firm devotion to the cause of democracy and proved your right to stand shoulder to shoulder with the best fighting men of the world.

These are some of the things of which you have a right to be proud. These are some of your successes and accomplishments. But while you have won great victories over our enemies, you must not make the mistake of believing that because of such victories those enemies are completely and permanently defeated.

Within your own ranks, from time to time, you will still find those who are self-seeking or corrupt, those who place their own small ambitions above the interest of the nation. Such individuals are not a particular evil of the military. We find them—far too many of them—in every walk of our nation's civilian life, political and economic. They must be guarded against and weeded out, and, when guilty of crimes, they must be punished.

Though he has been badly beaten and weakened, the internal Communist enemy is also still with us, and still presents a threat to our security. Having failed in his military strategy, he will make every effort to infiltrate our national life and sabotage our progress. He will make every effort to plant seeds of dissension among us, dividing us as a people and destroying our relations with foreign friends and allies. Against this enemy our vigilance must be sharpened, because his new tactics are more difficult to detect and because our democratic freedoms are in themselves a protective cover for his treachery.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to report any improvement in the situation regarding external threats to the national security. On the contrary, the Communist program of subversion and imperialist aggression has crept even closer to our shores. This threat to our sovereignty and integrity as a nation is the most serious challenge we have yet been called upon to face. It is a total threat and it calls for total defense.

Our people must be united and alert. Our social, political, and economic institutions must be made to operate at the peak of their efficiency. You, holding the first line of our defense, must be prepared to face the enemy with high confidence, inspired by the determination to preserve our Republic and its institutions.

We find comfort and strength in the fact that we do not face the enemy alone. Our defenses are re-inforced by the defenses of all the free nations of the world, of such friends and allies as the United States and the other democracies. Our military strength is not designed for conquest but, rather, for the preservation of peace. Our collective strength is not to be used to impose our will on others but, rather, to defend their right—the right of all men—to live their lives in freedom and security. We, who have known the horrors of war, certainly do not seek any objectives which require the making of war. But we, who have known freedom, are determined to defend that freedom with our lives, if necessary.

In your traditions and in the history of your accomplishments, one thing stands out clearly. You are a citizens' army. Your interests are identical with the interests of your civilian brothers. It is not your function to impose upon our citizenry a way of life, but, rather, to serve as their instrument in protecting a way of life of their own choosing. Your loyalty is not to any one man, but to every Filipino, to every citizen of the Republic. Your loyalty is not to any political party nor to any social or economic class. Your loyalty belongs, and must continue to belong, to the principles and ideals which make up our way of life.

By the grace of God and the will of our people, I speak to you today as your Commander-in-Chief. But in receiving your pledge of loyalty, I do so with the sober understanding that it is not given to me as an individual. It is a pledge entrusted to my custody as the representative of the people of this nation, selected and elevated to that position by democratic process. By the very nature of your identity as the armed force of a democracy, that is the only pledge you can give. As the chief of a democratic state, that is the only kind of pledge I can receive.

However, there is one pledge which we can and should make jointly. I call upon you to join me in pledging loyalty to the principles of freedom and justice which are the foundation of our national culture and our national existence. You and your brothers and your fathers have staked your lives to secure our existence as a free people. Let us serve notice to our enemies that they will have to take our lives before they can rob us of our freedom.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Armed Forces testimonial parade and review. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(7), 3019-3021.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Installation of Officers of the Jaycees

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Installation of Officers of the Jaycees**

[Released on July 4, 1954]

MR. PRESIDENT,
DISTINGUISHED JAYCEES,
MY COUNTRYMEN:

I AM happy to have for an audience on this anniversary of our Independence this distinguished body of young Filipinos. For you who are young, especially for you who are leaders among the young, independence is not just a glory achieved but a challenge to face for many years to come.

I can almost hear you say: “That is right. Now that we have independence, what shall we do with it?”

This is what I would like to discuss with you this evening.

There are several things we can do with our independence. We can make it strong, we can make it economically real, we can make it politically mature. We have the years ahead to do these things soberly and thoroughly. But it seems to me that there is *one pressing thing* that we must do about our independence today. We must defend it.

Defend it from whom?

There was a time when the task of Philippine statesmen was not the defense of independence—but the winning of independence. The great historical names that we now venerate are those of the thinkers, the leaders, and the martyrs of a movement whose objective was clear—the political emancipation of our country. To achieve this objective, they had to fight oppression, colonialism, and misunderstanding by men from other lands.

Now these enemies have been conquered, and independence is ours. It is now our task to defend it.

We can not defend this independence by closing our eyes to the realities around and within our shores, out of fear of arousing the real assailant.

There is no mistaking who this assailant is. He is the Communist.

From the outside, the world of the Communist now threatens to encircle us. From the inside, the Communist has for years been up in arms against the sovereignty of our people.

The Communist threatens our very civilization—the substance to which our independence gives form. His objective is the destruction of our God and our civilization. In their place he seeks to establish a Godless dictatorship by all means available—by deceit, by infiltration, by open aggression. He is all over the earth, threatening the fundamental rights of man, destroying liberty wherever it is found, trampling on national independence in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, seeking to rule the world.

The threat of Communist enslavement is, in other words, a total and worldwide threat. It is for this reason that, on our part, we have sought to strengthen the bonds of alliance with other free peoples courageously fighting and resisting this threat. Only recently, we have concluded arrangements with the United States for the organization of a joint council that will keep a constant check on our security requirements, to help us maintain a maximum level of preparedness for any eventuality. In principle, we are also in favor of any collective security arrangement that would strengthen our hand against this menace, provided such an arrangement does not frustrate the legitimate aspirations to freedom of other Asian peoples.

It would be fatal for us to entertain the fear that such positive alliances might “provoke” the Communist. This fear is based on the suicidal belief that the Communist is merely a peaceful reformer, moved to violence only when vexed beyond patience.

That is not the Communist we know in this country. We know personally the armed Communist, who, without provocation, murders his own countrymen to achieve his ends. We know personally the Communist propagandist, who, without provocation, lies and rants to confuse his own people. We know personally the Communist infiltrator, who, without provocation, commits the subtle act of treason by worming his way into key positions in our government in order to disrupt it, and render it ripe for seizure.

Yes, the Communist that we know needs no provocation. He is already within our shores, fighting us with guns, lies, and deceit. And so, along with the strengthening of our external chain of defense, together with free countries, we must strengthen our internal defenses. Our gallant armed forces are routing the Communist armed attack. But now, it seems, the enemy would like to revitalize his revolution by turning to deceit and infiltration. Against this new and perhaps even more dangerous attack, we must alert all, our people.

But it is not enough to alert our people. We must fortify them spiritually, physically, and mentally. We must confirm their faith in God, build up their confidence in the work-ability and superiority of the democratic process.

Ultimately then, the success of our internal defenses depends on the reaction of the common man. If he does not lose his faith, if he is not forced to look to other systems because of our failure to improve his lot, then our defenses are impregnable and our cause is won.

In the end, the real defender of our independence is the common man. We need only show him that it is worth defending.

Let us show him that it is worth defending.

You have a splendid organization, with young, intelligent, and energetic members in every part of our country. Ask them to help the common man—to give him just wages, to recognize his basic rights, to treat him fairly always, to assist him in his climb to the level of the dignity of man.

For my part, on this day of independence, I renew my pledge to the people of our country that my energies shall be devoted to the upliftment of the lot of our common man and the confirming of his belief in the democratic ideal. I can think of no better contribution to make to the defense of our independence.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Installation of Officers of the Jaycees. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(7), 3021-3023.

**Message of President Magsaysay to President Eisenhower Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To President Eisenhower**

[Released on August 12, 1954]

ON the eve of our first national observance of Philippine-American Day which I have proclaimed for August 13, formerly Occupation Day, may I on behalf of my people and on my own extend hearty greetings to you and through you to the American people and make acknowledgment of our deep appreciation and gratitude for all that America has done during the last half century to help us attain the high state of progress and security we enjoy today. I wish to reiterate our abiding faith in the altruism and spirit of justice of your people and our assurances of loyal friendship and utmost cooperation in your every endeavor to insure freedom and peaceful progress for all peoples. We are proud to have been identified with you all these years and it is our hope that we may be able to continue for a long time to come this pleasant and fruitful relationship in a manner that assures both our peoples a maximum of economic strength, security and happiness. It may interest you to know that on this occasion I am opening Corregidor and Bataan to the public and dedicating them as shrines to all free men by way of tribute to the memory of the Philippine-American heroes who fell or served there and whose spirit of sacrifice inspired Philippine-American Day.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Message of President Magsaysay to President Eisenhower. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3531-3532.

Message of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the popular Philippine-American Day dinner

**Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the popular Philippine-American Day dinner**

[Released on August 13, 1954]

FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

In greeting you on the occasion of your popular dinner climaxing the festivities on Philippine-American Day, may I congratulate the joint committee for the excellent program it has organized on such short notice and for its exceptional success in arousing wide public interest in the aims that inspired my proclamation dedicating August 13 to the lofty ideal of American friendship and unity. The general response, not only here in the Philippines but also in the United States, fully justifies my faith that the peoples of both countries, apart from their respective governments, firmly believe in the policy of close collaboration between the two nations as a means of assuring themselves peace, progress, and security.

While the inspiration and the initiative to celebrate Philippine-American Day were mine, it pleased me immensely to have observed that participation has been community-wide and I take this to be indicative of favorable popular reaction and clear support of the policies and objectives of my administration, especially in our relations with the American people. Having proved so well your capacity for spontaneous and extensive organization to rally to a good cause, I urge you to carry on in the spirit of Philippine-American Day with your share of the tasks that we need to undertake to safeguard our common interests during these dangerous times in which we live. With a strengthened spirit of solidarity between Americans and Filipinos, we shall overcome all our difficulties and march ahead towards the high goals we have set for our endeavors.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Message of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the popular Philippine-American Day dinner. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3533.

Message of President Magsaysay on Quezon' Day Program

**Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On Quezon' Day Program**

[Released on August 18, 1954]

MY FRIENDS:

I am happy to greet our people through this Quezon Day program under the sponsorship of the officials and residents of Quezon City.

There is one aspect of President Quezon's life that I wish to dwell upon in this brief message. This was the missionary zeal with which he served his country and people.

From early youth up to his dying breath, Quezon's one consuming passion was to serve his people—serve them unselfishly and devotedly. This was the spirit that fired him with courage to risk his life as a young officer in the patriotic forces that fought in the Revolution. It guided his every act and move as a public servant. It was the inspiration of his most brilliant years, when finally he was chosen by his people to lead them through the crucial tests and trials that were to lead to full independence.

As we remember tonight the life and works of the man that we honor, let us remember to what high purpose that life and those works were dedicated. They were dedicated to the service of the people, to the promotion of their welfare and happiness.

When this Administration assumed its responsibilities, I said I would require of every public servant that he serve the people with missionary zeal. This requirement, this standard, has not changed. I want to impress it anew upon our public officials and government employees, on this day of remembering one who had served his people with such zeal.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Message of President Magsaysay on Quezon' Day Program. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3534-3535.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Quezon Day dinner given by the Lions

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Quezon Day dinner given by the Lions**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, August 19, 1954]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

TODAY we pause in our tasks to honor the memory of a great Filipino, a great leader and a courageous fighter. Manuel Quezon in his lifetime fought two great battles. One was against the killer, tuberculosis. The other was for the freedom of his people and his native land. I like to think that Manuel Quezon was the victor in both battles. He refused to yield to the wounds of disease until victory was assured in the fight for freedom.

Among our heroes, the life and wisdom of Quezon have special meaning for our generation. His experience was rich with the lessons of the past, but he had the imagination and practical foresight to think and act for the future. He did not claim to be a scholar. He did not claim to be a philosopher. His was the alert mind of the practical statesman. He knew the problems of his people as he knew the palm of his hand. And he had a broad understanding of the complex modern world in which they had to be solved. With these qualities, he guided our nation within sight of victory. Then his frail body demanded rest, and other hands took up the "good fight."

Manuel Quezon was a realist. He knew the weakness of his people, and he knew their strength. He knew the power that lay in the Filipino passion for freedom, but he knew also that there was danger to that freedom in our habits of political and sectional rivalry, in personal ambition and pride. That was why, in his later years, one idea was uppermost in Quezon's mind. He pleaded, he argued, and he fought for *unity*. Today, more than at any other time in our history, we need those qualities and those ideals of Manuel Quezon. We need firm and honorable principles to guide us. We need practical and realistic thinking to steer our course. We need the bigness of spirit that will give our every act the strength of a United Filipino nation.

As citizens of such a united nation, each of us needs a re-orientation of our thinking in terms of the world in which our nation exists. We must come to recognize, whether we like it or not, that we do not live and we cannot live apart from the rest of the world. On the contrary, we are a living and active part of that world. What we do has some effect on the lives of peoples of other lands. What happens in the world outside has some effect on the daily life of each and every one of us here in the Philippines. It is important that an understanding of this vital fact reach into every home, into every barrio of our land.

It is important to broaden our outlook to include the world because what happens across the seas may affect the life and future even of a new-born child in some remote barrio of this country. Let me cite an example: There was some amusement recently when I imposed a ban upon the slaughter of our traditional work animal, the carabao. It seemed so small a problem alongside many others. But since that time there has been a tragic change in the world. Half of Indo-China, our neighbor only hundreds of miles to the west, has disappeared behind the Iron Curtain, and the rest is threatened. This becomes meaningful to the humblest *tao* when we recall that some of our rice shortages have been made up by imports from that unhappy land. Should that source and others be closed to us, should fuel for our tractors become scarce, should a troubled world bring these and other hardships upon us, the unslaughtered carabao and his offspring become much more important. Put to work on our idle hectares, they might well mean the difference between starvation and survival.

That is what I mean by the longer and broader view. Each one of us must learn to think and act from this perspective. Only with such awareness can we reach wise decisions and take effective action.

Some of you may shrink from this heavy responsibility. You may say, we have had enough of war and hardship. Can we not stand apart and let other fight if they insist? I wish I could say yes, but the answer is no. I am convinced, and the great majority of our statesmen and experts agree, that we have no choice, that there is no safe neutral position to take. If there is to be a war, our islands lie in the path of conflict. If aggression is to continue short of world war, we are high on the list of victims. Our only chance for peace is to work to stop aggression by adding our strength to the strength of a united free world. Our hope for survival as a free people lies in the survival of that free world.

Some of you may ask, so soon after fighting and winning a war against dictators and aggressors, why is the world again a fearful and dangerous jungle? There is some confusion in people's minds about the answer to this. Let me try to state it simply. It is a conflict between those who support the right of all peoples to freedom and self-determination, and the ambition of a new imperialism to dominate and rule the world.

If we examine a list of the nations of the free world, we are struck by the variety of political, economic, and social systems that co-exist and cooperate in peace. Spain, England, Sweden, India, Burma, the United States—these countries are governed under different systems. What is noteworthy is that they all live in peace and respect each other's rights as self-governing peoples.

In conflict with these nations is a group of imperialist Communist nations. What sets them apart from us is their self-admitted program of aggression and conquest.

From their world headquarters in Moscow, they use duplicity to recruit agents in non-Communist lands. These agents, setting themselves up as the Communists parties of the countries in which they operate, are instructed and guided by their alien masters in a systematic campaign to undermine and overthrow the legal governments of their own nations. When sabotage and propaganda fail to do the job, they are given soldiers and arms to complete it by violence. The main Communist propaganda machine tries to sell the fiction that these operations are "national liberation" movements, but there is overwhelming evidence from their own presses that it is a systematic plan of aggression designed to be used in every free country of the world.

This description is not just a theory. It is the plan that aggressive international Communism distributes to its agents throughout the world in countless books and periodicals that anyone can read. This is what has destroyed world peace. This is the program of aggression which we of the free world are resisting today, and must continue to resist if we wish to stay on this side of the Iron Curtain. Not only must we continue to resist it singly, but we must stop its advances in collaboration with countries which share our ideals and aspirations.

Each new conquest means a stronger aggressor. The people of conquered lands become slave labor. Their resources become war material for the aggressors next venture. Unless the free world take steps to stop the slow erosion of its strength, the time is not too far off when the aggressors will have captured the material strength for a massive aggression which might end freedom on the face of the earth. That is what troubles the world today and lays the cold hand of fear on every one of us.

What is the answer for us? As I have already pointed out, there is no safety in neutralism because the aggressors do not respect either moral principles or international law. I have said before and I still firmly believe, that the only hope to *avert* a war, and the only way to *win* a war if it is forced upon us, is through the united action of the free world.

Next month, some of the free nations will meet here in the Philippines to discuss the problem and try to work out a solution. We hope to find unity among them, but it is imperative that we assure unity among ourselves. Manuel Quezon foresaw this need, and today's events prove his wisdom.

The unity which Quezon asked from his people is what we need now to guard our freedom and assure our survival. We can achieve such unity only if we face the fact that our domestic successes and our domestic failures will mean little if we ignore the storm-signals of the outside world. We must stop thinking of ourselves as Ilocanos or Visayans, as Nacionalistas or Democrats or Liberals, as Christians or Moros. We must think of ourselves as citizens

of the Filipino nation, the Republic of the Philippines. Whoever puts personal or sectional considerations above the interests of the Republic, betrays the principles and ideals upon which the Republic is founded. He betrays the memory of Manuel Quezon. He betrays his own heritage as a Filipino.

Today our thinking must be national. We must think in terms of developing our whole economic strength. We must provide for the physical and mental health of our whole population. We must tighten and reinforce our defenses against the enemy inside as well as outside our shores. We must bring into action the full strength of our human and material resources. We must clear our minds and spirits of all doubt and indecision. We must forge strong ties of common determination, common purpose, and common action with all who think as we do. We must do these things because we have an obligation to our past, to the memory of Quezon and of those who preceded him. Our obligation is to spare no effort, no sacrifice, to preserve what they fought to secure—Filipino freedom.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Quezon Day dinner given by the Lions. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3535-3539.

Address of President Magsaysay at the Manila Conference of 1954

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Manila Conference of 1954**

[Released on September 6, 1954]

YOUR EXCELLENCIES:

ON BEHALF of the people and Government of the Republic of the Philippines, I welcome you to this important conference.

We rejoice that you have honored our invitation to meet in Manila. We trust that here, in the capital city of a country that value freedom and has shown the will to fight for it, you will find inspiration to plan boldly the effective defense of freedom in our part of the world.

Ours is a nation whose love of peace and devotion to freedom have been tested by suffering and sacrifice. We want peace because we have borne the cruelties of war. But stronger than our fear of war is our love of freedom. In the past we have stood up to be counted; in the future we propose to do the same. For the present we regard with high hope this conference of like-minded states that are ready to stand up and be counted in the struggle against aggression and tyranny.

We are met today for no aggressive purpose. We are met here to consider how best we may act jointly to deter aggression or to repel aggression. It is clear that we shall deter aggression only if we declare our readiness to act swiftly to check it by every means in our power, including the use of armed force. And we shall repel aggression only if our planning includes realistic procedures for organizing and carrying out measures for military, political, and economic cooperation, both for long term and for emergency purposes.

This conference will have contributed signally to the maintenance of international peace and security if the participating states adhere closely to three objectives; namely discouragement of aggression before it occurs, early and sound organization of counter measures against aggression when it threatens, and immediate use of such measures if it occurs.

Much has been said about co-existence. In this age of atomic and hydrogen weapons the case for peaceful co-existence between the Free World and the Communist world seems to be on the surface an attractive one. But what kind of co-existence? Our kind, in which free nations of so many different ways of life live today in peaceful operation? Or the Communist kind, which means meek submission to the systematic destruction of our free way of life? On this matter we cannot afford to deceive ourselves. We know enough of the tactics and objectives of Communism from its own words and actions to understand clearly that the only way free nations can co-exist with aggressive Communism is to keep strong and remain vigilant. If we put down our guard and become weak and allow ourselves to be deceived, we may achieve coexistence of course, but of the kind that obtains between the lion and the lamb with the lamb inside the lion.

It is the task of this conference to help build an adequate system of defense around an exposed and threatened sector of the Free World. On the Success of this conference may well depend the peace of Asia in the next ten years and the future of freedom in the world for the next thousand years.

The task is formidable and time is running short. I invite you, therefore, to this joint undertaking as one that is worthy of the best and highest that is in us to give.

May the divine wisdom of the Almighty guide your deliberations to achieve peace and freedom for all.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Address of President Magsaysay at the Manila Conference of 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4157-4158.

Speech of President Magsaysay before Manila Conference Delegates at State Dinner, September 8, 1954

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before Manila Conference Delegates at State Dinner**

[Released on September 8, 1954]

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

AFTER three days of your listening to each other, it really must be a welcome change for you to hear someone else and one who will not argue with you. In fact, there can be no argument, for I agree with you that you have *all* done a splendid job. On this point I am sure none of you will debate with me.

The Manila Conference of 1954 now belongs to history. You have forged a treaty that the perspective of time will show has only one purpose: to guarantee freedom and to preserve peace. You have thus fortified the ramparts of Democracy in Asia. You have steeled the hearts of all free men.

I ask you, ladies and gentlemen, to join me in a toast which is the best tribute we can pay our honored guests tonight. Let us toast to Peace and Freedom—*that* peace which is the objective of Democracy's crusade and *that* freedom without which there can be no peace.

To Freedom and to Peace!

* * *

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Message of President Magsaysay against War-mongers; Allays False War Fears

**Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Against War-mongers; Allays False War Fears**

[Released on September 11, 1954]

IT is reported from the provinces that wild rumors of war being circulated there are causing fear and confusion among our people. These rumors, obviously, are completely false and malicious. They must be stopped because they are harmful and costly to the people and to the nation.

The truth is, thanks to such measures as our new defense pact, there is less danger of war today than there has been for many months. And as the free nations strengthen their defenses the danger of war will grow even less. Aggressors attack only when the victim shows weakness.

Our people should understand that their government has the responsibility and the means to warn them immediately of any danger to the nation's peace and security. If any crisis should ever arise, the people will hear of it quickly from official sources—not from market place gossip.

For our own protection we should also understand what is behind these rumors—who starts them, who spreads them, and what they are supposed to accomplish.

World communism did not like the conference which took place here last week. They knew the results would make their aggressions more difficult. In an effort to turn us from our purpose they tried in different ways to frighten the free world. Near Japan, Russian planes attacked an American plane. Near Formosa, Red China's artillery shelled a Nationalist island. In our own provinces, Communist agents started rumors designed to frighten our people and disrupt our daily lives. All of these incidents were part of a big pattern of Communist coercion.

However, not all who spread rumors are Communists. The Communist invents the falsehood. His agents plant it among people, depending upon greed and ignorance to do the rest.

The greedy rumor-monger helps to spread lies because he wants to buy your property or possessions at sacrifice prices, or because he wants to raise the price of some necessities he has to sell. The ignorant rumor-monger wants to awe his neighbors with his importance. Both are as harmful to the community as the Communist who inspires them.

Remember these three sources next time someone whispers an alarming rumor in your ear. Ask yourself, Is he Communist, crook, or ignorant? Protect your self and neighbors by exposing him for what he is.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Message of President Magsaysay against War-mongers; Allays False War Fears. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4166-4167.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the U.P. Loyalty Day Celebration, October 10, 1954

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the U.P. Loyalty Day Celebration**

[Delivered at Los Baños College, October 10, 1954]

THIRTY-SIX years ago, the first World War was being fought between those who believed in man's right to freedom and a government of his own choice, and those who believe in rule by force and conquest.

Thirty-six years ago, on this date, a call was heard at this institution for volunteers to join in that struggle. In a thrilling demonstration of unity, every man present—student and faculty member alike—stepped forward.

Each year since, that magnificent display of loyalty has been celebrated here at Los Baños and remembered with pride throughout our nation. In those early days we were ruled by the United States. Today we rule ourselves. But there has been no change in our celebration of this occasion because the loyalty we honor was loyalty to an ideal—loyalty to the concept of freedom.

Today again we face the challenge of freedom versus slavery. Again, throughout the world, free societies must defend themselves against the aggression of a new would-be world conqueror—Communism. We hear again, in our own homeland, the call to serve our ideals.

The task we face calls for great effort on the part of all of us. It is not enough for us to man our defense post in the world struggle. It is not enough for us to defeat and control the Communist aggressor at home. While protecting our basic freedom on all fronts, we must at the same time speed the building of democracy in our land. To those of our people who have never known it, we must bring the blessings that a free society has to offer.

Political democracy is well rooted among our people, but it must have the nourishment of economic democracy if it is to survive.

Democracy means equal opportunity. Equal opportunity means that each of our citizens must have access to the means of working toward a better life. His reward will depend upon the amount of effort he is willing to contribute, but it is his democratic right to be able to make such effort.

Many obstacles lie in our path: the forces of nature—the effects of past wrongs—our own inertia and lack of enterprise.

Take just one field—*your field*, which is agriculture. Here we come up against all the pressures I have mentioned. Our country is both under-developed and badly developed. Much of our land is still virgin soil. Our farms do not yield as much as they could, and do not produce as many different crops as they should.

We are saddled with an outmoded system of land tenure. More than half of our farmers are tenants and farm owners with less than two hectares. With low incomes from their little fields, these tenants and small farmers become the prey of usurers, unscrupulous landlords, and speculators.

To a large extent, our agricultural methods are still primitive. Many of our farmers do not have the tools of modern science and technology—tools which have long been available to the farmers in more progressive countries.

Many of our small farmers do not have title to their lands. There was a five-year program to give land titles to fifty thousand farmers. But five years is too long in this case. By sound planning—by vigorous action—we intend to complete that five-year program in one year.

Centuries of neglect have left many of our farming communities in the grip of inertia, victims of all the evils of under-employment, low production, and low income. Our agricultural development was lopsided and lacking in direction, with the result that our economy became dependent on a few export crops. The prices of these crops fluctuated continually, making it difficult for us to attain economic stability.

On top of all these, we have had to repair the ravages of the Second World War and of the Huk rebellion. At the height of the dissident movement, thousands of farmers fled from their homes in remote barrios and became squatters in well-protected but crowded cities. These displaced farmers are moving back to the barrios with the restoration of peace and order. The increase in rice production is one of the immediate effects of their return to the farm.

We have also suffered from two adverse effects of the cold war. Some of our own funds which could have been used for economic development have been diverted necessarily to our national defense program. A large share of free world resources which might have been used to speed up the economic and social progress of the less developed countries have also been diverted to armaments and defense establishments.

Such is the problem which we face in the field of agriculture. To cope with it, we have developed a practical, comprehensive program.

Our farmers need know-how and operating capital. The Government is determined that they shall have both.

This Administration is making available the funds needed by the farmers through the ACCFA, the rural banks, and other government credit agencies.

Our farmers are good credit risks. This fact is reflected in the repayment record of the cooperatives affiliated with the ACCFA. More than ninety per cent of last year's ACCFA crop loans to farmers has been repaid.

All the money in the world, however, would be useless if the farmers do not learn to use it wisely. This is where the scientist, the researcher, and the extension worker come in. They work as a team to provide the farmers with modern techniques and the know-how to invest their money with profit to themselves.

New roads, bridges, artesian wells, irrigation systems, health centers, and community development projects, are putting an end to stagnation in the barrios. Fresh life and new ideas are being funneled into our farming communities. Under the five-year highway development program, thousands of kilometers of feeder and barrio roads are being built, linking rural communities to towns and markets. Army engineers are working day and night, helping to speed up the completion of this program. The same energy and drive are being applied to the job of building artesian wells, health centers, and other facilities of wholesome barrio life.

Pre-fabricated schoolhouses will be constructed in the barrios where they are most urgently needed as part of a frontal attack on the problem of providing better education for our school children.

The implementation of the Government's policies on land tenure and land settlement is being accelerated. A new law has been enacted to improve tenancy relations and establish leasehold tenancy contracts by choice of the tenants themselves.

A program for self-sufficiency in our principal foodstuffs, particularly rice, eggs, meat, and dairy products is being implemented.

In the case of palay, price supports are being provided for the first time. Under this system, the NARIC will buy as much palay as our farmers are willing to sell, at a price giving them a fair return for their investment. Price supports should help to eliminate the profits obtained by speculators at the expense of the producers.

The quality of our principal export crops is constantly being improved. Livestock production is being increased.

Maximum use is being made of aid from the Foreign Operations Administration. Counterpart funds amounting to more than 120 million pesos have been appropriated to “match” FOA loans and grants totalling more than 100 million dollars. The projects include an integrated research program, control of plant pests and animal diseases, fertilizer distribution, gravity and pump irrigation projects.

Our delegations to the United Nations have supported measures to safeguard primary producers like the Philippines from disastrous price fluctuations. They have also proposed a fair adjustment between the prices of raw materials and the prices of manufactured goods, especially the capital equipment needed by the less developed countries.

Thus, we have placed this central problem of our economy under a concentrated, vigorous, and sustain attack.

Within the framework of our plan for a balanced economic development, we have given emphasis to the implementation of our farm program. Ours is an agricultural country. It is our concern to increase, diversify, and make more efficient our agricultural production. Increased production means better living, greater purchasing power for the rural communities where seventy-five per cent of our people live, more security, and wellbeing for all.

Our agricultural development is one of the essential bases for the development of industry, which we also need to build up a balanced economy and create jobs for that segment of our population which cannot be absorbed by the farms. Industrial growth will be stimulated by the availability of raw materials from agriculture and by the demand for finished products that the farmers will require. Agriculture in turn will benefit from industry’s increasing use of raw materials from the farms. It is a creative, wealth-producing chain reaction which we are trying to start and sustain with our farm program.

More and more of our farming folk are being induced to stay on the land as we make their fields more productive and their villages better places to live in. Thus, we hope to enrich our rural communities and at the same time halt the drift of rural people to the cities, which are not yet ready to make fruitful use of their services. Our aim is to offer to our youth a future on the farm as attractive as any that they can find in the cities and towns.

The farm is one of the decisive arenas of our struggle to raise living standards. The future of his Administration—perhaps even the fate of the Republic—will largely depend on what happens or does not happen in our villages. This is true of the Philippines; it is also true of India, of Burma, of Indonesia. All these countries are trying to raise themselves by their bootstraps, racing against time to improve the lot of their peoples in the face of tremendous odds.

This is the challenge that we face today. We are called upon to telescope within the span of ten or twenty years the economic and social development which normally might take a hundred years. And we are required by our history, our traditions, and the mandate of our people to do so within the democratic framework, without violence to our free institutions.

We cannot accomplish this task unless we close ranks. We are embarked, of our own free choice, on what may be described as a forced march. We have one supreme objective—to place in the hands of all our people—in the shortest possible time—the means to live in dignity, to work without fear, to prosper in freedom and peace. But to reach our goal we must be vigilant, hard-working, self-disciplined, and self-denying.

As we celebrate the spirit displayed here at Los Baños in the past, let us think of today’s call to service. It is not a call to shoulder a gun on some far battlefield. It is a call to serve our fellow-countrymen right here at home.

Here at Los Baños are being created the weapons to fight poverty and want. In your hands are the skills and know-how to arm our people in the neglected rural areas with the means of getting greater benefit from their labors, of breaking through the walls of ignorance into the rich land of a modern free community. Are you willing to give that extra measure of devotion to our national ideal? Are you willing to go beyond the strict boundaries of duty to make sure that your weapons of productivity get into the hands of those who need them?

Your personal dedication to this need cannot be ordered. It must come from your hearts, from your own determination to speed the building of a strong, free Philippines. It is a call for volunteers. What is your answer *this* time?

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the United Nations Day luncheon, October 24, 1954

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the United Nations Day luncheon**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 24, 1954]

MY FRIENDS:

UNITED NATIONS DAY is the closest the world has ever come to a truly international holiday. Embracing the many and different races, nationalities, and creeds of the earth, its celebration is dominated by the highest ideals of each of them. Christians and Moslems, Buddhists and the followers of the great faiths—all, we know, contribute their common hopes and aspirations—peace, justice, freedom, a life of plenty, and the brotherhood of man. Unfortunately, since the communist members worship no God, it is difficult to name their aspirators, but there is all too much reason to believe that power is their highest goal.

This is the ninth birthday of the United Nations. Next year at this time, the member states will undertake a thorough overhaul of the Charter with a view to eliminating its defects, strengthening its weak points, expanding its scope to serve the needs of a swiftly moving atomic age. During the year ahead, the member nations would do well to give long and careful thought to the record of the years gone by. It is well to take pride and comfort from the successes and constructive achievements of the organization. But it is far more important and urgent today to examine the failures, to seek the reasons for those failures, and appraise their cost to mankind.

I think it will be found that only part of the fault lies in the mechanism of the United Nations. I think it will be found that the flaw has been in the minds of men—in the lack of firm purpose, in the fear of facing realities, in hesitancy to sacrifice short range advantage for permanent achievement. And I know that an honest appraisal of the cost will show a staggering set-back to the progress of mankind.

The United Nations and its many agencies have done a tremendous amount of good constructive work towards plans and means of bringing new high levels of health, education, and productivity to the newly developing nations of Asia, for example. All members of the free world have contributed generously to this cooperative effort. Some of the free powers, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, have carried on ambitious programs independently, aimed at the same goal of speeding the rising standard of living which has characterized free societies throughout history.

Much has been accomplished by these efforts, but only a small fraction of what *could* have been accomplished. Too many of the urgently needed projects are still in the blue-print stage, too many are delayed by limited resources. Why? Why is the free world, which has among its members the greatest combined strength in the world today in terms of human and material resources, delayed in repairing the ravages of the last war and in building a happier future?

There is one major reason for this delay, and our progress will continue to be retarded—perhaps even diminished—until we face that reason squarely, identify it courageously, and determine to eliminate it.

For years now the free world has been harassed and led by a new kind of war. Some call it “cold war,” implying that it is less serious than “hot war.” I disagree. It has already conquered too many millions of free people, dragging them behind an iron curtain into slavery. It has already spread a new light of imperialism over people who had long struggled for and finally won their independence. The free world must recognize this devious aggression as a real war for survival. It must unmask its perpetrators as ruthless imperialists who try to hide their lust for power behind hypocritical slogans of social reform.

As every school child knows, this aggressor—this wrecker of world peace—is international Communism. Its agents are the members of so-called Communist parties which exist wherever they are tolerated in the free nations of the world. Its objectives are world domination. Its shifting tactics of advance and retreat, of brute force and smiling conciliation, are skilfully designed to achieve that domination. These are facts admitted and boasted about by Communist leaders from Lenin to Malenkov and their satellites. How anyone today can still be deceived by Communist changes of tactic is the great mystery of our time.

What concerns us now, however, particularly as members of the United Nations, is that these tactics of subversion, sabotage, and disguised aggression are making a mockery of the very principles upon which the organization was founded. Instead of a world community living in harmony and cooperation based upon the fundamental human rights, we see a large peace-loving community terrorized and disrupted by coercion, fraud, and the threat of war. We see the common constructive effort of the United Nations undermined, blocked, and destroyed. The attention we owe to the needs of our people is distracted by the calculated sneak attacks of an openly declared enemy. The resources we could expand upon the development of a better life for the peoples of the world are diverted to arms we need for defense against growing aggressive military power. The cooperation upon which hope of the world rests is being methodically disrupted as friends are alienated from each other to make easier prey for the enemy.

This is the real problem of the United Nations. The rest we know can be overcome.

We are told that we have only two choices: co-existence with Communism or a war of mutual destruction. I disagree on two counts.

The plea for co-existence should not be addressed to the free world. We have shown, and continue to show, that this is our normal way of life. Peaceful co-existence is what characterizes the friendly relationship between the many different political, cultural, and economic systems represented in the free world. It is the Communist world which has shown again and again its unwillingness to accept peaceful co-existence. Whenever Communists have extended their hands in friendship, behind their back the other hand held a club and chains for the victim of their overtures. Only when they have demonstrated by deeds their permanent abandonment of such criminal intent can the free world afford to extend its hospitality and let down its guard.

As for war being the only other alternative, I think we underestimate the moral strength of man's desire for peace as well as the practical common sense of the enemy. Communists are shrewd professional war-makers. They will not undertake an attack unless reasonably sure of success. Free world strength is much greater than their own, as they well know. Their appreciation of this fact is shown by their strategy of driving wedges between free world nations by every means from bribery to coercion. Let all the free nations stand in unity, firmly opposed to their methods and the Communists will not risk defeat. Let that unity remain solid while the strength of the free world grows and Communism may yet abandon brigandage as unprofitable, turning to a society of laws for its own survival.

That is the challenge that lies before the United Nations. Can narrow short range interests be put aside to meet a common threat, to back UN principles and ideals with unity and firm determination? If we yield to fear, we can hope only for the peace that goes with surrender. If we recognize and use our true strength, peace with freedom will be our reward.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Speech of President Magsaysay at the United Nations Day luncheon, Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, October 24, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50 (10), 4752-4755.

Christmas Message of President Magsaysay, December 24, 1954

**Christmas Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines**

[Released on December 24, 1954]

TO the people of the Philippines I extend my warmest Christmas greetings.

During the first year of this administration we have exerted great efforts to bring about a happier and fuller life for all, especially for those who know only want and misery.

God has blessed us with peace, rich resources, and ample capacity to achieve this objective.

I trust that as we continue working together in an atmosphere of goodwill, faith, and enthusiasm we shall surely continue adding to our initial gains until we shall have fashioned richer, more plentiful life for our people.

This is my wish for all of you this Christmas: something all of us can share, five for, and carry forward to fulfillment.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's Christmas Message, December 24, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50 (12), 5759.

Message of President Magsaysay to the Asian Youth Conferees

Message of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines To the Asian Youth Conferees

[Delivered in Baguio, December 27, 1954]

IT is easy to describe the role of the youth in moulding a free and United Asia, which is the theme of this Conference. To carry out that role is a more difficult task.

Throughout Free Asia, governments and their peoples are striving to speed the development of their human and material resources. As independence and self-determination are being won, attention turns to realization of the economic and social benefits of a free society.

Asia's march toward modern levels of social well-being must hurdle such obstacles as the time lag of history, the shortage of technically qualified manpower and equipment, and the need to change within months social attitudes which other peoples have taken years to evolve. This they must do against the formidable opposition and systematic sabotage of a new imperialism which seeks the failure of free societies and their subsequent surrender to a new form of colonization.

As you all know, Free Asia is under heavy and relentless pressure from communist imperialism. Communism seeks by every means to undermine the freedom and unity of the Asian nations which have elected to remain in the Democratic camp.

The communist menace may assume many forms.

Communist forces may strike in open aggression—as they did in Korea.

Communist agents may attempt to carry on armed subversion—as they have done in the Philippines.

Communist propagandists may foment discontent among the masses, class war within nations and suspicion between States—as they are doing wherever they are allowed to operate unhampered in Asia today.

By all these means, communist imperialism seeks to enlarge the territory under its control and to create disorder and demoralization in the adjacent areas—preparatory to further infiltration and expansion.

This pattern of subversion, aggression, and imperialist expansion defines the difficult role of the youth in helping to mould a free and united Asia. That role may be summed up by the following tasks:

First, to resist aggression—as the youth of Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines did in Korea, together with the youth of fourteen other free nations.

Second, to help internal subversion—as the youth of this country have done and are continuing to do.

Third, to do their share of the work of raising the standards of living in the poor communities, which are the soft spots most vulnerable to communist penetration.

Fourth, to help strengthen the institutions of Democracy and devotion to democratic methods of solving economic, social, and political problems.

Lastly, to promote understanding and cooperation among free nations—as your association is doing through this Conference.

These are heavy burdens. They pose a great challenge to the youth of today.

I am confident that you will meet this challenge squarely, and do your part in moulding the unity and safeguarding the freedom of the democratic nations of Asia.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's message to the Asian Youth Conferees in Baguio, December 27, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(1), 96-97.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the State Dinner for France Cardinal Spellman

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the State Dinner for France Cardinal Spellman**

[Delivered at the Palace, January 10, 1955]

YOUR EMINENCE, EXCELLENCIES, GENTLEMEN:

IT IS with great pleasure that I rise tonight to say a few words of welcome to a friend.

Friendship is a two-way affair. We assume on the one hand that Cardinal Spellman has a special fondness for us, else he would not have taken the trouble of crossing the Pacific a fourth time to visit us once more. On the other hand, there is a very special place in the Filipino heart for His Eminence. He has gained this place because he has displayed a very real and very warm interest in the welfare of the Filipinos and in the welfare of other peoples of Asia who now live under constant threat of Communist aggression.

His Eminence is doubly qualified to give us moral support against atheistic invasion or subversion. He is a Prince of the Church and therefore loves God. And he is an American and therefore loves freedom. By Faith and by citizenship he belongs to the two great bodies of men that today are the strongest bulwarks of humanity against the Red evil.

May I ask you, therefore, to stand and drink with me to the health and continued missionary success of His Eminence, Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). The President's speech at the State Dinner for France Cardinal Spellman tendered by the President at Palace, January 10, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(1), 101-102.

Speech of President Magsaysay after Sangley Dinner given by Admiral Goodwin in His Honor

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
After Sangley Dinner given by Admiral Goodwin in His Honor**

[Released on January 29, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

MRS. MAGSAYSAY and I are very happy to be here tonight—among friends. Our hosts, Admiral and Mrs. Goodwin, have given us a most pleasant, enjoyable evening, and I wish to thank them for it.

This is only one of the things, of course, for which I wish to express my appreciation to Admiral Goodwin. Admiral Goodwin assumed this command soon after I myself took office, and looking back on his first year in this country, all I can say is that I would be very happy and proud if I have done as well in *my* job during the past year as Admiral Goodwin has done in *his*.

Through his friendly ways, his sincerity, and his thoughtfulness, Admiral Goodwin has proven himself a true ambassador of goodwill for his country. In this, I am sure he will gladly share credit with his gracious lady, who has generously given of her time, energies, and services to many of our outstanding civic and charitable projects.

Admiral Goodwin also has maintained the most harmonious and mutually beneficial relations with our own armed forces. He has not hesitated to give a helping hand whenever it was requested, and I know that our navy in particular has benefited from his counsel and experience.

But above all, our people are grateful to Admiral Goodwin for the firm hand and quality of leadership that he has shown in exercising his command. To our people, he is a picture of calm confidence and quiet strength, no doubt reflecting the massive power that he represents. Since we depend so heavily on that power for our defense against outside attack, we are grateful for Admiral Goodwin's reassuring presence among us in a position of high responsibility, especially now in these days of tension and danger.

May I now ask you, my friends, to join me in a toast to the continued health of our most charming hosts, Admiral and Mrs. Goodwin . . .

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Speech of President Magsaysay after Sangley Dinner given by Admiral Goodwin in His Honor. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(2), 681.

Address of President Magsaysay in Response to the Pakistan Minister's Address, February 9, 1955

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
In Response to the Pakistan Minister's Address**

[Released on February 9, 1955]

MR. MINISTER:

I am pleased to extend to you a cordial welcome and to receive from you the letters of credence accrediting you as the first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Her Majesty, the Queen, on behalf of the Government of Pakistan to the Republic of the Philippines.

I note with gratification the kind words you have just said concerning my country and people. You have stressed the need for greater collaboration between our two peoples and this feeling, I assure you, Mr. Minister, is deeply shared by the Filipinos and their government.

It is also with keen interest that I have noted the determination of your Government to shoulder the burden of responsibility for the maintenance of peace in South East Asia as evinced by your prompt ratification of the Manila Pact. It is with the same deep concern for peace and security in this area that we have signed and ratified this Treaty. Permit me to assure you, Mr. Minister, that your efforts in this direction will have the constant support of my Government.

I take this opportunity to ask you to convey to Her Majesty, the Queen, and to His Excellency Mohammad Ali, the head of Your Government, our grateful thanks for these greetings as well as our best wishes for a long and happy life to Her Majesty, the Queen, and to his Excellency the Prime Minister and for the happiness of the people and Government of Pakistan.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Address of Prime Minister Khaliqzaman following the Presentation of his Credentials

**Address
of
His Excellency Khaliqzaman
Pakistan Minister
Following the Presentation of his Credentials**

[Released on February 9, 1955]

MR. PRESIDENT:

I deem it a great honor to present to you my credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Her Majesty the Queen of England on behalf of the Pakistan Government of the Republic of the Philippines, and the fact that I am the first diplomatic representative from my country to the Great Republic of the Philippines serves to me an added satisfaction.

Even though the relations of Pakistan with the Republic of the Philippines in the field of trade and commerce have continued since the past few years, nevertheless, they were not continued since the past few years, nevertheless, they were not confined only to those fields but they covered also the wider field of cultural and ideological harmony which is perhaps the most sound basis of friendship that can stand the strain and stress of the present disturbed conditions of world politics. As a standing proof of our determination to shoulder the burden of our responsibility for the maintenance of peace in South-East-Asia and to thwart the aggressive designs of communism to save democracy which is our sheet anchor, we entered into a historic pact known as the South East Asia Treaty Organization along with six other signatories, including the United States of America and Great Britain, here at Manila a few months back, and with God's grace, this pact has not been ratified by our governments. The joint responsibilities in this area, willingly undertaken by us, make it incumbent on both governments to continue to foster and further cement our friendly cooperation, and I can assure you, Mr. President, that as my government's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary it would be my constant endeavor to work to that end.

Further, it is also a matter of great satisfaction that a conference of Manila Pact Powers is going to meet in Bangkok on the 23rd of this month to take some practical steps to chalk out a scheme and to give practical shape to the defensive arrangements for this area, where again we would be called upon to offer our cooperation to this important and urgent plan for the maintenance of peace in this area.

I am fully conscious that in the discharge of my duty I shall constantly need the kind and helpful assistance of Your Excellency and the friendly support of the government and people of the Philippines, and I have no doubt in my mind that it would be ungrudgingly extended.

With great sincerity and satisfaction I wish to convey the good wishes of my government and my self for a happy and long life to Your Excellency and for the prosperity and happiness of the government and people of the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Khaliqzaman. (1955). Address of Prime Minister Khaliqzaman following the Presentation of his Credentials. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(2), 685-686.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines

Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines

[Delivered on April 5, 1955]

PRESIDENT
DISTINGUISHED
MEMBERS
MEMBERS
MY FRIENDS:

OF

OF

THE

THE

GRADUATING

TAN,
GUESTS,
FACULTY,
CLASS,

IT is good to be with you this evening, and to be permitted to share the atmosphere of hope and promise that prevails over this gathering of young people who have reached a significant milestone in their lives. For the academic honor conferred upon me, I am deeply grateful and profoundly moved. But this is a very personal kind of gratification, of consequence to me alone. What stirs me even more is the feeling of being privileged to have something of a preview of our country's future.

This is not said to flatter you or to indulge in a flight of rhetoric. I am simply expressing a basic fact of human life which too often is forgotten. The past generation clings jealously to its values and condemns the present for any change. The present generation stoutly defends its values as the peak of aspiration. Both forget that they are merely temporary custodians of what really belongs to the future. To me you are the future, and I am excited as I look ahead to what you will have achieved when I have slipped into the background of the past.

When I was thinking of what to talk to you about this evening, many topics of great interest and importance came quickly to mind. The tense and precarious state of the world with its threat of war, and its threat of a dictatorship ambitious to conquer all mankind. Certainly these will strongly influence the pattern of your lives. Or, turning to the domestic scene, I thought of the many and serious political, social, and economic problems which challenge us as a people and will determine our destiny as a nation. They, too, are bound to affect you. But I remembered that in you I would have an audience far better informed on those subjects, perhaps, than most . . . far better equipped by training to grasp their magnitude and vital significance. I therefore decided upon a subject of more personal and immediate interest to you.

I would like to talk to you tonight briefly about a subject which is most timely in terms of our nation's problems, most appropriate for the halls of this Institution of higher learning, and above all, most significant to you as individuals. I would like to talk to you about leadership—what it is, what it means, and what its functions are in this Republic.

In the first place, I think it should be remembered that in a democracy the title of leader is not something to be sought or to be seized. The title of leader, to have real meaning, must be conferred upon an individual by a community. It must be conferred on the basis of evidence that the individual has those qualifications which make for useful and constructive leadership.

I think it is also important to bear in mind that the title of leader is not to be considered solely as an honor to be worn like a medal, or to be framed and hung on a wall. True, it is an honor, a great honor, since it expresses the confidence and respect of one's fellow citizens. But even more than that, it imposes a grave obligation and a heavy burden of responsibility if the individual who earns the title tries seriously to live up to it.

There are many kinds of leadership, and only one of them—not necessarily the most important—is that which has to do with politics and government. In a democratic society such as ours, leadership is essential at every level and in

every area of national activity. In fact it might be said that the reason for the existence of this Institution is the need for a constant supply of individuals equipped with the knowledge and the training to assume the responsibilities of leadership when and if required. Every student who passes through the doors of this Institution should understand from the outset what I have already said about leadership. His community, his nation, has established and maintains this Institution so that the nation's youth may have the means of developing their talents to the fullest possible degree. It is a public service, the cost of which is borne directly or indirectly by every citizen—by every resident—of the nation. It is therefore expected by the community and the nation that the men and women who emerge with skills and training will have a sense of obligation to use those skills in such manner as to benefit their fellow countrymen.

When I said that leadership in government is not necessarily most important it was not because of modesty or with the intention of minimizing the importance of government. But I think it is important to realize that government of itself is after all, nothing more than a means of guiding and regulating the complex mechanism which is a nation of more than twenty million human beings.

Government, of itself, cannot feed or clothe those human beings. It cannot give them employment or minister to their health. These things must come from the human and from the material resources which make up the nation. They must come from the hard work and vigorous initiative of every one of us, from the intelligent utilization of the riches with which God has endowed us as a people.

For example, there is a need for civic leadership—the kind that teaches and keeps the citizen aware of his rights and obligations under our form of government—that stirs him to intelligent action when those rights are impaired and persuades him toward responsible action when he neglects his obligations. Only with such civic leadership can our people know that their government is fulfilling its functions, and only with such leadership can the government be assured of the material and moral support which is essential to its successful operation.

Our economy needs leadership. It is needed at every one of the many levels which make up the huge complex machinery of the nation's productive and distributive effort. In agriculture and in industry, in commerce and in trade, in transportation and scientific research—in all of these and in many more too numerous to mention there is the need and the place for your skills. There is the need and the opportunity for any or all of you to assume positions of leadership.

If I have not mentioned arts and letters and those other purely cultural areas of learning so vital to the spirit and mind, it is not because I consider them less important but because I feel that they can best flourish only if there is being achieved the state of material well-being which the other skills can provide. Nor do I consider even this as an order of rigid priority. The ivory tower has its place in every civilized community and the test of leadership within its confines is the success with which the product of the ivory tower is brought down into the marketplace to improve and enrich the life of the community.

It would be an insult to your intelligence for me to say that you are about to step into a bright world waiting to greet you with open arms, recognize your merits, and heap rewards upon you. On the contrary, you will be better armed for the struggle ahead if you know that the accomplishment of your mission in life means overcoming many formidable obstacles.

You will find yourself blocked by selfishness and greed. The mud of ignorance and vanity will slow your steps. Glib and empty oratory will dazzle and confuse you. You will have to cut away the bonds of prejudice and false pride, and resist the pressure of arrogance. You will have to learn to recognize these evils, expose them and destroy them if you are to realize your ambitions, and if society is to benefit by its investment in you.

I feel that you are equal to the task. You have the clear-eyed vigor of youth, and your minds have been sharpened into keen and precise instruments. You will not fail if you bear in mind always that your success and well-being as individuals cannot be separated from the well-being of your community, from the progress and development of your nation. You cannot fail if you have faith in your God and confidence in yourselves.

As useful citizens of today, I welcome you. As leaders of tomorrow, I salute you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). The President's speech at the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Philippines, April 5, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(4), 1817-1820.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Magsaysay during the 48th Annual Meeting of the Philippine Medical Association

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
During the 48th Annual Meeting of the Philippine Medical Association**

[Delivered in Baguio City, April 27, 1955]

I am very happy to be with the members of the Philippine Medical Association who are gathered here today for their 48th annual meeting. Coming from all over the country as delegates of their local medical societies, they are here to represent the physician in the different spheres of his activity. Here among you are the private medical practitioner, the physician in the government service, the specialist in the different branches of medicine, the medical educator, and even the physician members of Congress. Altogether you represent the most effective group that promotes the health of the people which is a vital requisite to the full growth of our young Republic.

About a year and a half ago in another place but under circumstances similar to this annual meeting, I announced that the improvement of the health of our people at all levels shall be one of the main objectives of my Administration. I have vigorously pursued that objective at as rapid a pace as possible. When we took over the reins of government, the appropriation for health activities was around 14 million pesos. In the first year of this Administration 31 million pesos was allotted for health work. In the budget currently under consideration by Congress not a single centavo of the amount recommended for the Department of Health has been slashed. There can be no better indication of our sincerity to improve the health of our people, and I am deeply grateful to all the members of Congress for their full support of our health programs and activities.

Conditions obtaining in the barrios and rural areas necessitate that our health program should reach these places as early as possible. Because a great majority of our people have their homes in the rural areas, we may say that the state of their health reflects to a large extent the overall health condition of the nation. For instance, the death and infant mortality rates of the country as a whole largely depend upon the rates prevailing in the rural areas. We may expect, therefore, that the more effective the medical services we render to the barrio people, the more rapid will be the decline of the general death and infant mortality rates of the nation.

In this connection, Republic Act No. 1082, otherwise known as the Rural Health Act, establishes 1,300 rural health units, one each in all the municipalities all over the country. The rural health unit does preventive, curative, and promotional health work among all the people within its area of operation. As of last month, 1,093 of these units were already in active operation. In addition we have Republic Act No. 1136, also passed last year, which makes possible the expansion and strengthening of our campaign against tuberculosis on a nation-wide scale.

One of the major health problems confronting our rural population is generally the lack in some areas of a potable water supply particularly for domestic use. The relation of health to safe and potable water is well established. I am extremely gratified that voluntary contributions are pouring in daily to the Liberty Wells Association, not only from our own people but even from our foreign friends here and abroad.

I pointed out that we have to improve the health of our people at all levels. There is a rapidly expanding need for more hospitals. We have a hospital construction program and the hospitals when completed, aside from their service aspects, shall also be available as training institutions for all categories of health personnel who may wish to enter the government service.

There should not, however, be any fears among private medical practitioners that the government health activities would draw away from them their legitimate practice. All of the official health services are intended to arouse and maintain health consciousness among the people which will make them go to their doctors at the first sign of illness. Those doctors may very well be the private practitioners.

There is, however, one serious situation that is quite disturbing. This is the unequal or uneven distribution of our physicians in the private practice of the profession. There is a concentration of them in cities and other metropolitan areas. It is hoped that the establishment of the rural health units will relieve this situation.

The government is doing its part to encourage physicians to practice in the barrios and this is partially accomplished by Republic Act No. 1082. But the disparity is still with us. Hence, I now make an appeal to the Philippine Medical Association and to the medical schools to devise suitable measures which will encourage and promote the practice of medicine in the barrios and rural areas. Perhaps one way to do this is to allow undergraduate medical students to work with the health services in their respective localities during vacation time on a voluntary basis. It will acquaint them with the health problems in their own localities and with the services which are available to meet these problems. At the same time they may get an inkling of the possibilities for medical practice in the locality.

Governments have the major responsibility of looking after the health of their people which can only be adequately carried out through adequate health and social measures. In our country I am relying on the patriotic sense of the national medical association. I have faith that it will acquit itself creditably in its well-defined mission.

The offer of voluntary services made by some members of your profession during the recent calamities in Lanao and adjoining areas is an eloquent guarantee of your high civic spirit. I have therefore every reason to feel that the members of the Philippine Medical Association are capable of pooling their resources together in promoting a continuing health program that will develop a vigorous and healthy citizenry.

Let me say that I am grateful for this opportunity of addressing you. May you have fruitful deliberations to the end that you may successfully contribute to the health of our nation.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Philippine Medical Association at Baguio City, April 27, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(5), 2348-2350.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of Labor Day

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On the occasion of Labor Day

[Released on May 1, 1955]

LADIES
FELLOW WORKERS:

AND

GENTLEMEN,

I am happy to join in this traditional celebration of Labor Day, and to extend to you and to all the working men and women of our land my warmest greetings and congratulations. I congratulate you because of the impressive progress achieved by labor during the past year in its steady march toward its rightful position in our society. Your progress is a matter of greatest interest to me because of my conviction that a strong, democratic, and responsible labor movement can be an important stabilizing force in our social and economic life.

As your growth continues and as you gain more and more of the benefits of social justice, you may be sure that your government under this administration will give the fullest measure of support and protection to your rights under the nation's laws. I am fully aware that the mechanisms which exist to implement and enforce the laws designed for your protection are frequently inadequate and slow. In some cases they must be completely overhauled and brought up-to-date. We are moving in this direction as rapidly as possible.

My understanding of your problems and of mechanisms, after all, is no accident. My past experience as a mechanic explains both. But if any of you mechanics look upon me as an example to follow, let me warn you: In my present employment I am not protected by the eight-hour law and there is no severance pay.

There may be some of you who feel that this administration has overlooked the industrial worker in concentrating on the barrio and rural development. Let me point out that this effort affects you most directly and significantly. To increase our agricultural efficiency and production is the only practical means of securing for you what I consider your right, a decent minimum living standard.

No matter what your wages may be in pesos, what really counts is your real wage, what your peso will buy in terms of food, clothing, and shelter. A prime objective of this administration is to raise the purchasing power of your pesos by modernizing and developing our basic agricultural economy.

There is another objective of this administration in which you have perhaps the heaviest stake. I refer to our efforts to encourage and attract domestic and foreign investment for the development of our resources and for industrialization. Here again is the only practical way to translate some of your theoretical gains into reality.

Organized labor here has expanded and improved its collective bargaining techniques but this advantage cannot yet be fully realized. The problem is simply that there are too many candidates for too few jobs; there is fierce competition among our workers themselves for the limited number of jobs available. The only solution is the encouragement of more enterprises, more development of our natural resources, more industrial ventures—in short, more job opportunities. Our labor force and our job availabilities must be brought into closer balance if collective bargaining is to function effectively.

This, in brief, is the administration's program for labor. First, to maintain a free social and political climate in which labor can find unity by democratic organization and learn to use effectively the democratic means of protecting its rights and advancing its interests. Second, to increase national production, reducing the price of essential commodities and giving greater purchasing power to the worker's peso. Third, to extend the national economy,

bring about full employment, and put the law of supply and demand on the side of the worker. This is our program for your benefit and I ask your understanding and cooperation in speeding its accomplishment.

As we celebrate this Labor Day, we should take note and think soberly about a strange twist of history. For many years, in Europe and elsewhere, the rallying of labor on May First has always been associated with the followers of Karl Marx. Today we find that in those countries where Marx has taken the place of God, labor organization has become little more than organized slavery. In Communist countries only one union is permitted and that is run by the State. To criticize or oppose this union is considered a crime against the state, punishable by forced labor or worse. Strikes are forbidden. Heartbreaking speed-up and overtime assignments are imposed without extra compensation and called “patriotic contributions”. The worker has no choice in his employment. He must do what he is told and go where he is sent—even if it is thousands of miles from his home and loved ones. This is the “worker’s paradise” that Communists have in store for labor.

It is important that you think about this and remember it as your organization strengthens and expands. Labor unions are a priority target for Communist infiltration and seizure of control. You must exercise constant vigilance in spotting these enemy agents and expelling them from your free organization. You must learn to recognize their tactics and frustrate their plans to capture you.

A survey of labor throughout the world today shows one unchallenged fact: Labor has achieved its greatest strength, its greatest freedom, and its highest living standards in the free democracies.

Your nation and mine is a free democracy and, with the help of God, will continue to be a free democracy. Everything we need to achieve a better life is here or within our reach. It is up to us to develop the intelligence and skill to make use of those means. It is up to us to marshal our human resources, to unlock our material resources, and,—by combining the two—to enjoy the bounty of our Creator as free Filipinos in a free Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of Labor Day, May 1, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(5), 2350-2351.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the Labor-Management Congress Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Labor-Management Congress**

[Delivered at the University of the East Auditorium-Gymnasium, May 26, 1955]

DEAR DELEGATES AND FRIENDS:

It is my pleasant task to greet you as you begin this Labor-Management Congress. The nation itself watches hopefully as you gather here from all parts of the Philippines to seek agreement on the means of securing an enduring industrial peace for our people.

This event, it may be said, is already successful in the sense that it has brought together in a single hall the leading representatives of labor and management in the spirit of friendly consultation over common problems. This is industrial democracy in action. This was the hope and expectation which inspired the proclamation convening this first congress of Labor and Management under the Industrial Peace Act.

But while the government itself, through the Department of Labor, has initiated this step, the responsibility for its success belongs entirely to you who represent management and labor. The government can only provide leadership and guidance in the true democratic tradition and maintain a public policy favorable to industrial peace. In a democracy, the government cannot impose industrial peace. This must come out of the joint voluntary efforts of employers and workers themselves.

It should be clear, therefore, that your acceptance of this responsibility is basic to the success of this Congress and to the achievement of the overall objective of establishing ever rising levels of labor-management cooperation for the national benefit. When you decide to accept this responsibility, it follows you will want to examine all the problems open-mindedly and frankly and with a minimum of reservations.

Your own agenda properly classifies these problems under seven headings, ranging from labor standards to the practice of collective bargaining or negotiation. Thus, you have a reasonably comprehensive framework in which to explore likely solutions to these problems in a manner equally acceptable to both labor and management. The conditions to the attainment of industrial peace may be fulfilled only through mutual acceptance. Any other approach to the problem is inadequate.

We know from every-day experience that cooperation cannot be imposed from the outside, that it must find its own stimulus and grow from within. This is a basic fact to keep in mind when we consider the problem of labor-management relations. As the Industrial Peace Act itself states, sound labor-management relations in a democratic society must "rest on an essentially voluntary basis."

As a matter of fact, in the broad sphere of public affairs, this administration has always sought to release the full energies of our people by inspiring them to self-achievement on the basis of self-help. This is especially true in the government's rural development programs. For we recognize that the well-springs of progress are ultimately to be found in the responsive hearts of the people. Such springs respond to friendly persuasion, good leadership, and democratic incentives, but never to dictation.

The agenda of the Congress includes items about manpower utilization, organization, productivity, collective bargaining, and mediation or conciliation. All these subjects offer good material for joint examination by the labor and management delegates. All of them are inter-related and together comprise a broad and vital sector of public concern.

In considering each of these phases of labor-management relations, you will do well to keep in mind the fact that labor-management relations are not static, but dynamic. They present problems that may be effectively approached only through the acceptance of the need for continuing adjustments as a result of changing conditions. In a developing industrial society such as ours, labor and management will find the will and the means to adjust so long as each keeps growing in the acceptance of responsibility.

To a large extent, how much good faith each side possesses will determine the degree in which you will succeed here. I am sure you will pursue your individual and collective tasks with eagerness, diligence, and sympathy. I also feel sure you will bring to this Congress an open mind ready to take into account the public good and the long-range interests of the country in any question.

You have here a rare opportunity, as individuals and as a group, to contribute very materially to national development, which is our common primary goal. I know you will exploit that opportunity in the fullest measure.

I wish you all a most fruitful three-day convention.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the Labor-Management Congress, Thursday morning, May 26, 1955, at the University of the East Auditorium-Gymnasium. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(6), 2846-2847.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the launching of the 1955 Annual Fund Campaign of the Community Chest
of Greater Manila Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the launching of the 1955 Annual Fund Campaign
of the Community Chest of Greater Manila**

[Released on June 1, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

AMONG the events that I really enjoy is launching fund drives for deserving causes, and I am happy that you have asked me to participate in this one.

I believe that it takes the combined efforts of the government and voluntary agencies to deal effectively with the tremendous social welfare problems of our day. While the amelioration of the condition of the masses is a governmental responsibility, there are some types of social services that can be done by voluntary agencies more expeditiously, and more economically. Therefore, it is the policy of this administration to give all-out encouragement to the voluntary efforts of our citizens in the field of social service, since these efforts help the government in providing more adequately for the well-being of our people.

The Community Chest is one of my cherished allies in our program of social betterment. The 18 member agencies for which it raises funds annually, supplement greatly the government's social welfare program. I understand that last year, more than 700,000 persons were helped by these Red Feather agencies. This is a most commendable accomplishment, indeed.

To you who have volunteered to work in this campaign goes the gratitude of all for your unselfish services. I hope this gratitude expresses itself in a generous and warm response to your new fund drive. Mr. del Rosario, here is my contribution. With it goes my wish that the Community Chest campaign this year will break all previous records and will be the great success that we all wish it to be.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). The President's speech at the launching of the 1955 Annual Fund Campaign of the Community Chest of Greater Manila, June 11 , 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(6), 2847-2848.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Philippine Association of College and University Professors (PACUP)

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippine Association of College
and University Professors (PACUP)**

[Delivered at the Far Eastern University Auditorium, June 10, 1955]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE invitation to speak to you was one which I was very happy to accept. Part of my satisfaction was due to the knowledge that I would have an understanding and responsive audience composed of some of our best minds. But uppermost was the thought that this would be a chance to communicate directly with the men and women who personally bear a national responsibility very close to my heart. I refer, of course, to that most important responsibility of training our youth for useful and constructive maturity.

Only recently, I had occasion to express a few thoughts regarding the role of our institutions of higher learning in furnishing the leadership needs of our nation. I emphasized the importance of bringing the powerful tool of knowledge into action in coping with the practical problems of our national existence. My remarks to you now are in the same spirit, but on a more intimate and individual level. Yours, after all, is the closest and most personal contact with the youth who will determine the future of our country and our people.

There is nothing I can say to you about the methods of education. You are the specialist, and your competence is unquestioned.

Likewise, there is nothing I need say about your devotion to your task, about the sincerity of your efforts. It is too well known that your profession is noted for unselfish performance, that there has never been adequate reward for the responsibility you bear and the social contribution you make.

Despite this last fact, what I ask of you now is an extra measure of effort, extra attention on your part to one aspect of the educational process. This is the development of what we need today—and what you can give us: a more thoughtful, a more critical, and a more active citizen.

This new citizen must fully understand the serious demands of the democracy of which he is a part. He must be made to realize that the democracy of today as the calesa is different from a modern car. In the calesa of our fathers you could joke and talk and leave it up to the horse to find his way: a mistake then was not too serious. The same behavior in a car of our day usually means disaster and tragedy. Today's driver must be skilled and sober. He must understand his vehicle, and know the rules on the road he travels.

The same is true of our citizen, of our public servant, and of our government. Events move too swiftly for us to be able to take an attitude of indifference toward the course of our national life. Carelessness on the part of government and lack of interest on the part of our citizens can be costly and tragic, not only to this generation but to many others to come.

Our citizen of today must learn to insist on facts. He must learn to demand that policies based on labels and slogans include the details of their operation, of their consequences. How will this policy, he must ask, affect me personally? How will it affect my children ten years from now? How will it affect our nation?

A certain amount of politics is necessary under our system but our citizens must refuse to let politics—politics in its basest sense—dominate government. The political game is exciting to those who participate in it, but it is played chiefly for the benefit of those individuals. It must not be permitted to take the place of the duties and junctions which the public servant is paid to perform. When the game of politics actually slows down the process of government and impairs its efficiency, it becomes a very costly game which the citizen should not tolerate.

I realize that you do not reach all the voters of this land, but your students can become the missionaries of good citizenship in their community. They can become the molders of an informed public opinion without which a democracy cannot operate. You must impress upon them the fact that they are part of the community and that their community is part of our nation—and that our nation is one of a community of nations. The accuracy of their judgment, therefore, has a tremendous effect far beyond their own experience. We do not expect each of our citizens to become expert in all the many fields of public affairs. We ask only that he perform his tasks as a citizen and a voter conscientiously, honestly, and with sober deliberation.

Whether in government or out, the citizen is a part of government under our democratic system. He must contribute his intelligence to the common pool. Under your guidance he has studied economics, perhaps, or political science, or logic. He has studied history and philosophy. But he has wasted your time and his own if he has not learned the practical application of his learning to his own problems and those of his community.

As a free people, we have chosen to live under a system of popular self-government—under a democracy. As moulders of the minds and character of our youth I ask you to give us the citizen of informed and critical judgment. In doing so you will realize the noblest aspiration of your profession, and your nation will realize the fullest flowering of its heritage.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech before the Philippine Association of College and University Professors (PACUP), delivered at the Far Eastern University Auditorium, June 10, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(6), 2848-2850.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the Golden Jubilee of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines

Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, June 19, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

WHENEVER a couple celebrates a silver or golden wedding anniversary, you will always find the male partner claiming more than his share of credit for the enduring partnership. You will hear him say that it was his patience, *his* tolerance, *his* kindness, *his* fortitude that steered the marriage through the shoals and rocks of marital life, to the calm harbor of a happy jubilee. The wife receives, at best, some vague citation for having “inspired” him to these grand achievements.

Tonight, on this golden jubilee of the feminist movement in the Philippines, I am sorely tempted to take this same selfish line and claim, for the men of this country, far more credit than they deserve for the amazing advances that have been made by the women in enhancing their social, economic, and political situation. It seems so easy to say that, after all these blessings were dispensed by the men who ruled this country exclusively until the grant of suffrage to the women in the late thirties.

But this would be a most superficial and unjust verdict on the feminist movement of the past half-century. The truth shines bright and clear underneath. The truth is that it was *your* patience, *your* courage, *your* fortitude, *your* unflinching determination that have won for yourselves the victories that you celebrate today, and it is my pleasure and privilege to salute you on this happy occasion.

The history of the feminist movement in the Philippines tells an inspiring story of steadfast dedication to a cause. In the beginning, its aims were modest and non-political: the *Asociación Feminista Filipina*, which was the pioneer feminist organization in the country, hoped to encourage the women to take advantage of the new educational opportunities offered by the Americans and to train them in the social services. As the people’s nationalistic aspirations continued to burn ever more fiercely, however, it was inevitable that the women should also turn their thoughts and attention to political action. They demanded equal rights with the men in the field of politics and government, starting with the right to vote.

The struggle for this and other goals was tedious and difficult. Deep-seated prejudices and traditional taboos had to be met and overcome. But the women, through patience, fortitude, courage, and competence, proved themselves equal to every new challenge. They scored their initial achievements in social work: prison reforms, care of the infirm and the insane, juvenile delinquency prevention, beatification projects. They blazed the trail for activities and programs now taken for granted in our national life: literacy campaigns and adult education, puericulture centers, women and child labor reforms, maternity benefits, the advancement of the cause of teachers.

But it was in the sphere of political action where the feminist movement scored its most significant gains. One of its brightest hours was that day in 1937 when nearly half a million women, fired to zealous action by suffragette leaders many of whom are with us tonight, won in a plebiscite the precious right to vote and hold office for all qualified women of the Philippines. You may justly be proud of what you have done with this right and its attendant responsibilities ever since. Women have held the highest offices with distinction and competence. Our women voters now number almost as many as the men, and they certainly need not yield to the men in earnestness of purpose with which they take their political responsibilities. There is not the slightest doubt that the women will continue to grow as a potent political force in this country. I for one do not hesitate to give them major credit for the victory of the cause and principles which we espoused in the last elections,

The Filipino woman is today the most advanced woman in this part of the world, socially, economically, and politically. There is as much as this to celebrate tonight. All of you, who have done so much for so long to make this possible, may rightly feel proud and gratified.

I ask you to remember that all this could have been gained and achieved only in a free society. In a police state, the iron rule is to restrict and contract, not to expand the frontiers of freedom. The less rights and powers are ceded to the citizenry, the less danger there is that those in power may be overthrown. You have reached the eminence of free and dignified citizens because you had staked your claims for civil and political rights in the favorable climate of a free society. It is your duty, therefore, both to the past and to your future to see to it that our free institutions are preserved and strengthened against whatever threat, that you may continue in the tranquil exercise and enjoyment of those hard-won rights.

Aside from this, I address to you another bigger challenge yet. Your successes, following the pattern of events of the past half-century in our country, have been felt chiefly in the cities and urban centers. They have hardly caused a ripple in the rural areas, where so many of our women continue to live in conditions of ignorance and primitive living not far removed from those which had prevailed all over when you began the good fight to reform them fifty years ago.

I ask you to direct your efforts and extend your assistance to the women in the rural areas. I know that you can effectively supplement and reinforce the administration's efforts in this field. You can help and instruct them in so many activities—in the proper care and education of children, in healthful living, in cottage industries, in literacy campaigns, in increasing the production of their farms, in political action. You can guide them to new heights of social, political, and economic achievement.

It is my firm belief that the final test of whether we shall have succeeded or failed will depend ultimately on how well or badly we had fared in bringing progress to the vast majority of our people who live in the farms and barrios. I ask you to accept this same standard by which to measure your works and progress henceforth. Judging by the record of the past fifty years, I have no doubt that your performance on this new mission shall be as richly hailed and applauded fifty years hence.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines, delivered Sunday evening at the Manila Hotel, June 19, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(6), 2850-2852.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Testimonial Parade and Review

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Testimonial Parade and Review**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, July 1, 1955]

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES,
MY FRIENDS:

IT always makes me proud to watch your military formations—to note the precision of your marching and the smartness of your bearing and appearance. It makes me even prouder to feel anew the high purpose of the organization that you represent. I speak not only of those who are here. I am thinking also of your comrades-in-arms who are in the mountain fastnesses of the Sierra Madres, in the Candaba Swamps, in isolated detachments everywhere, performing their noble task of defending and preserving our young and growing Republic. My heart goes out to all of you who stand guard under rain and sun that our people may enjoy the blessings of peace and our institutions may remain free.

And to those who are no longer with us, those who have given all in the line of duty, I offer the solemn pledge that we shall not squander away the gains that they have bought so dearly.

I wish I could tell you here and now that the fight is over, that the enemy has been utterly destroyed, and that the battle has been won. I wish I could tell you that now you may lay down your arms and address yourselves to tranquil pursuits. In truth, however, we have yet to attain this cherished goal.

It is true we have successfully checked the armed rebellion which only a few years ago had threatened to engulf all of us. Now, the enemy is dispersed and disorganized. However, he still roams the hills and countrysides in small, vicious bands, and he has become more cruel, more ruthless with despair. These bands have to be mopped up. Every last town, every last barrio, must be made safe from them. The fight must go on.

Nor has the enemy really abandoned his plan for seizure of national power. He has merely changed tactics, not the objective. With the same objective, the enemy is now implementing a more vicious plot to weaken the foundations of our Republic and undermine the faith of our people in their democratic institutions. His main effort is now directed towards weakening the political, economic, social, and cultural structures of the nation. He seeks to do this by infiltration, by subversion, by boring from within

Aware of this threat to our national integrity and security, I have instituted a program of government designed to strengthen the faith of our people, particularly those in the rural areas, in their government. It is a program designed to give meaning and substance to our freedom and independence. This program, however, cannot be completed within a short period of time. It will require our combined energies as a people for many years to come.

The Armed Forces have been contributing, with vigor and enthusiasm, to this program. I am particularly proud of what they have done. I know that such projects as the construction of pre-fabricated school-houses, the opening up of settlement farms, and the campaign of information to bring the government closer to the people, are normally beyond the scope of the Armed Forces. And yet, these projects have been prosecuted with such efficiency and dispatch that they have at least doubled the pace of our progress. More, they have served as a pattern of service to the country for other agencies and offices to emulate.

Notwithstanding all this, the territory we have to cover is so large that our job is far from done. You must not forget that this is the first time that any kind of attention and concern has been devoted to our rural areas which have been

neglected for so long. We must double, treble, quadruple our pace and output. Only thus can we keep ahead of the enemy who is ever ready to exploit every case of neglect and every sign of indifference by the government.

We must also remain alert, for the methods of infiltration are difficult to detect and neutralize.

It is well that the Armed Forces each year meet in a ceremony such as this to re-dedicate themselves to the service of their country and people. It is not only on my own behalf as President of this Republic or as your commander-in-chief that I accept this testimonial of your loyalty. I accept it on behalf of our more than 20 million people who have entrusted the defense of their freedom and way of life to you. They expect you to remain true and firm in your devotion to duty. They expect you, especially during these uncertain times, to be ever alert lest they lose their freedom through your neglect or indifference.

I know our Armed Forces as well as, if not better than, any man I know you will not let these expectations down.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the testimonial parade and review, Friday morning, July 1, 1955, at Camp Murphy. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(7), 3242-3425.

Fourth of July Speech of President Magsaysay

Fourth of July Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Philippine Columbian Association

[Released on July 4, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

I welcome this opportunity to come before this distinguished club and speak at this time.

These are not just the empty words of a politician.

I welcome this opportunity because this club, the Philippine-Columbian, has always been renowned as a gathering place for those who believe in the principles of liberty and justice that typify our nation.

Thus I believe that this is a most fitting place—among the nationalists of this association—and certainly a most fitting time—the ninth anniversary of our glorious independence—for me to review a few basic principles for which I stand.

When I was campaigning for the sacred office of President of the Philippines, I made myself clear on the most vital issue affecting our independence.

I promised our people that I would take all possible steps to preserve our independence and to insure our national security, both from within and from without.

I defined not only our objectives, but how we were going to attain them.

In the matter of preserving our national security from outside threats, we recognized, in the light of the plans and objectives of the aggressive imperialism which then threatened and still threatens us, that there was no safety in standing alone and holding aloof.

We recognized the impossibility, in this world of modern arms, of organizing and providing for our own defense with the limited resources at our command.

We have, therefore, sought and secured the safety of alliance with more powerful nations.

Specifically, we have entered into close alliance with the most powerful nation on the face of the earth—the United States.

We have become part of the Southeast Asia Pact, better known as the Manila Treaty.

We have done these things for the sake of no other country except our own country and for the sake of no other people except the Filipino people.

For this—the Philippines first—has always been and always will be the guiding principle of my administration.

We have served and will serve no other interest except our own national self-interest.

We have entered into these alliances to strengthen our own defense, secure our own independence, preserve our own freedoms.

We now find our own defenses augmented by the free world's collective strength and by the actual presence here of America's great fighting power.

I have also adhered to my promise of protecting our freedom from internal attack.

You will remember I broke with the Liberal administration because it just wanted me to fight and kill Huks. I felt that this gave only half the answer to this problem, and I wanted to do more.

I wanted to give our discontented a new life, to correct the abuses from which so many of them had suffered to give them confidence in the honesty of our free and democratic institutions. I wanted to welcome those who were truly repentant and show them the meaning of our independence, the ninth anniversary of which we are celebrating today.

I believe that considerable progress has been made in that direction in the one-and-a-half years since I was given your mandate.

The leader of the Huk movement himself, Luis Taruc, has surrendered to the government.

The administration's policy of benevolence continues to attract surrenderees from the Huk ranks.

At the same time, the reforms we have instituted, the confidence that we have restored in the government's sense of justice, have prevented those with grievances from becoming Huks, or from turning to the Huks. They turn to us now, confident that they will get justice and redress of grievances.

An examination of Communist propaganda will bring out the fact that its greatest enemy in this country today is this administration.

Thus have we strengthened our independence against threats and attacks both from without and from within, since I was elected to office.

We have done this—to repeat—by always serving foremost the interest of our country and people, by always thinking of the Philippines first. We have also gained added prestige and honor for our independence in this way.

When we sent a delegation to Bandung, to the Asia-African conference there, it was freely forecast by some that we would merely be looked upon as puppets of the United States.

I never shared that fear. We proved at Bandung how wrong were the prophets of puppetry.

Under the able leadership of our chief delegate, Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, we made a deep impression upon our fellow Asians and upon the African nations at Bandung. Instead of finding ourselves labelled as puppets, we found ourselves as one of the leading advocates of the high principles of dignity for mankind in which all Filipinos believe.

It was not our delegation which had to retreat at Bandung. It was the representative of Communist China who was obliged to retreat. He found out that the desire for freedom and the hatred of Communism had inspired more nations to resistance than he had imagined.

Let me say here and now that we cannot flirt with Communism if we want our independence to remain real and secure.

When I say that, I am saying it because I am thinking of the Philippines first.

I am amused by those who try to put forward this slogan as some kind of new concept. To me, there certainly is nothing new in the idea. I do not know, and I could not practice, any policy but Philippines first. I cannot see how any Filipino who loves his fellow countrymen and the land of his birth can ever think in any terms other than Philippines first.

Only on this basis can we shape and build the kind of Philippines that you, here in this room, and the millions who have agreed with the principles I set forth during the campaign, want for yourselves and your children.

Our people want a Philippines strong and stable internally and able to preserve its hard-won independence against external threats, in firm alliance with our great and good friend, the United States of America.

I am determined to see to it that our people continue to get what they want.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Fourth of July Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay before the Philippine-Columbian Association. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (7), 3425-3428.

Speech of British Ambassador to the Philippines George Lisle Clutton at the presentation of his credentials

**Speech
of
His Excellency George Lisle Clutton
British Ambassador to the Philippines
At the presentation of his credentials**

[Delivered on August, 1955]

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I account it a great privilege to have been chosen to represent in the Philippines my August Sovereign, the Queen, and Her Government and people in the United Kingdom.

My Government and country have watched with warmest interest and approval the steady and successful effort which the Republic of the Philippines has made to overcome the grievous wounds of the Second World War, to develop her resources, and to establish for herself so assured and respected a place in the affairs of Asia and the world.

Mr. President, the relations between our two countries have always been close and cordial and their interests mutual. We were comrades in arms in the last world war and we have fought together alongside our American and other friends to uphold the Charter of the United Nations. We are also partners in the Colombo Plan. A further great impetus was given to our close collaboration by the signing—not yet a year ago—of the Manila Treaty. This treaty is a solemn profession of faith by a community of like-minded democratic and peace-loving nations of their will to maintain their ideals and their way of life and to work together in all spheres, political, economic, cultural no less than military, for their own well-being and that of the free world. The proud principles of this South East Asian community are set down simply and nobly in the Pacific Charter, and the leading part which the Philippine Delegation to the Manila Conference took in their formulation must be a matter of pride and satisfaction to the Philippine people.

It is a weighty moment for me, Mr. President, when I take up my duties as British Ambassador, and I am very conscious of my responsibilities. I hope sincerely that I shall be able to play some part, however modest, in the development of SEATO in all its aspects. It will be henceforth my firm and constant endeavor to do my utmost to further the interests of Anglo-Philippine relations and to make a reality of our common aspirations; to develop the traditional ties which, especially in the field of international trade, have existed between our two countries over the centuries and to collaborate in this sphere in the economic development of our country. I shall strive too to see the contacts between the United Kingdom and the Philippines still further expand and deepen in every field, and I shall not spare myself to do everything in my power to assist.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Clutton, G. L. (1955). British Ambassador George Lisle Clutton's speech at the presentation of his credentials. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3985-3986.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the National Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL)

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the NAMFREL

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, August 14, 1955]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT is with great pride that I stand before you today to greet you on the 2nd biennial convention and the beginning of the 5th year of your great movement.

The National Movement for Free Elections was born at a time when, because of flagrant abuse of the ballot, the masses of our people were beginning to despair of the processes of democracy. It was a critical and crucial year. The Red insurgents, whose military effort was gradually being smothered by the newly spirited drive of our armed forces, were looking forward eagerly to another farcical election. They expected that one more barefaced violation of the people's will would break their faith in the workability of democracy and would pave the way for a popular welcome to the idea of a regimented political and economic life.

When your movement began in August 1951 you proceeded to awaken our people. You awakened them to the fact that if they wanted their freedom they would have to rise and defend it themselves by their own initiative, collaboration, and watchfulness. It was a revolution that you began, a peaceful uprising against the old lethargy, the old apathy, towards the sacred right of the ballot. You gave life to the almost moribund concept of a free vote. Here was a sacred right reduced to gracing the oratory of demagogues. The people had grown cynical about its substance. You rescued them from their cynicism and showed them the way to win back that substance.

Naturally even a newly awakened people could not, by mere peaceful watchfulness, protect their freedom of choice if the Government forces were not in some way prevented from being used as tools for the frustration of that peaceful effort. In my own humble way, I did all I could as secretary of national defense to see to it that your peaceful effort was not defeated by the very forces which were supposed to protect your rights.

Thus, the various elements of your armed forces were so disposed all over the country that they could serve in a positive way to cooperate with your followers in assuring the freedom of the ballot, especially in those places where that freedom had recently been desecrated.

We all know the results of your efforts. The people were indeed awakened and they marched to the precincts on that election day of November 1951 determined that their vote would be free. And when it was all over, when the results came in and the nation realized that there had just been held a free and honest elections, our people said a prayer of thanks. Democracy had been saved.

I am certain that our people have not forgotten and will never forget your heroic movement.

You did it again in 1953. And the question now seems to be: Now that the people are fully awoken, is there need for NAMFREL to continue existing? My humble answer would be yes. The people are now awake but overconfidence may yet lull them back to the passiveness which bred the big and little tyrants who once made a mockery of the people's will. It is your mission to remain as a constant and persistent reminder to our people that the ballot, the cornerstone of the democratic structure, will continue to be free only as long as the people are organized for its freedom. And the Communists would be the first to celebrate the disbandment of your movement, for they would be the first to profit from the failure of Philippine democracy.

Gentlemen, your people need you. Do not relax your efforts. Redouble them. For in that way lies strength, peace, and liberty for our Republic.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech before the NAMFREL, August 14, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3986-3988.

Radio Speech of President Magsaysay on the late President Quezon's 77th Birthday Anniversary

Recorded Radio Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On the late President Quezon's 77th Birthday Anniversary

[Broadcasted over DZFM together with those of past Philippine Presidents, August 18, 1955]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

WE commemorate today the seventy-seventh birthday of Manuel Luis Quezon, one of the Founding Fathers of our Republic. On this occasion we can render no greater honor to his memory than to express sincere appreciation for the great heritage of freedom that he left us and to resolve to abide by the patriotic examples which adorned his life.

Serving the country during all his active adult life and being the leader of his people for 22 years, he left a long inventory of patriotic deeds. But I should like to point out just three of his accomplishments any one of which would entitle him to the highest regard and respect of his people.

One of the marks of his dynamic leadership was the shaping and direction of a sane Filipino nationalism. An outstanding advocate of Filipinism, he yet made possible the development of a Filipino culture which assimilated the best in the cultures of Asia, Europe, and America. It is on the broadness of the resulting culture that the independence, to which he contributed his energies and his life, is founded firmly and enduringly.

Another heritage of the people from this far visioned leader is friendship with all the world but especially with the United States. It is perhaps interesting and pertinent to recall in this connection what possibly were his last thoughts on Philippine-American relations before he died.

While he was in Corregidor during the last war, he broached the idea of saving our country from enemy invasion and occupation by getting the United States and Japan to agree to its neutralization and eventual evacuation. President Roosevelt replied to the effect that, whether the Filipinos continued to fight or not, the United States, would liberate the Filipino people "regardless of its cost."

Upon receiving this reply, President Quezon, as he recorded in his autobiography, made this pledge: "I swore to myself and to the God of my ancestors that, as long as I live, I would stand by America regardless of the consequences to my people and myself."

It is also among President Quezon's achievements as a national leader that our people today are steeped in democracy. His entire leadership was directed toward the education of the people in living under a government of their own making. He is truly the father of Philippine democracy.

On this solemn occasion of commemoration and remembrance, let us pledge ourselves anew to the ideas which he taught us and for which he died. He died less than two years before the final realization of the independence to which he had devoted his whole life. But the Philippine Republic was his highest goal. Making it the success that he dreamed is the best way by which we can keep faith with this beloved leader.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's recorded radio speech on the late President Quezon's 77th Birthday Anniversary, August 18, 1955, broadcast over DZFM together with those of past Philippine Presidents, August 18, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3990-3991.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the launching of the National Fund and Educational Drive of the
Philippine Tuberculosis Society Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the launching of the National Fund and Educational Drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, August 18, 1955]

FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN:

ON this day, the eve of the late President Quezon's birthday anniversary, we are again gathered here to launch formally the 1955 Anti-Tuberculosis Educational and Fund Campaign. No tribute to the memory of that illustrious statesman and revered patriot can be more eloquent than our re-dedication to one objective to which, in life, he had given so much—the eventual eradication of tuberculosis. Today, that same enemy, more vicious than ever, continues to cause misery, suffering, and death among our people.

We can not be truly wealthy unless we are healthy. We can not achieve real prosperity until we can successfully halt the ravages of the White Plague on our population. Tuberculosis which accounts for 12 per cent of all death among Filipinos continues to hamper our economic development. It depletes our manpower by 30,000 lives each year. Furthermore, it imposes on our country an economic burden which, expressed in terms of the sum total loss in life-capital through premature death from the disease, loss of productive power due to disability during the following illness, and the funds spent in the care and treatment of cases—total to the staggering amount of P500,000,000 every year.

My friends, to allow 30,000 persons to die, and P500 million go to waste every year from just one single disease, tuberculosis—which *can be prevented and cured*—is indeed insufferable for even the strongest and richest country in the world to bear. This is the difficult problem which tuberculosis poses before us.

Fortunately, during the past 45 years the Philippine Tuberculosis Society has valiantly waged a war against this disease in close collaboration with the government health agencies. But while much has been achieved much more remains to be done. The campaign must be extended to the remotest barrio and intensified with unremitting vigor until every Filipino home is freed from the fear of tuberculosis.

We cannot win this grim struggle against tuberculosis without hard work by community members, skill and energy of public health leaders, a well-informed and cooperative public, and adequate funds. The most urgent of these factors is adequate funds without which the entire structure of any tuberculosis control program will collapse.

I am, therefore, appealing to the magnanimity of every citizen and every resident of this country, regardless of political loyalty, color, or creed to give, and give abundantly to the 1955 anti-tuberculosis educational and fund drive which the Philippine Tuberculosis Society is authorized to conduct from August 19 to September 30. I am making this urgent appeal to every man, woman, and child, fully convinced of the worthiness of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society's humanitarian cause.

I now declare the 1955 anti-tuberculosis educational and fund drive formally open. As a firm believer in the crusade against the White Plague, I also avail myself of the honor of handing my personal contribution to this campaign, happy in the thought that by this I am performing a pleasant duty of good citizenship.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the launching of the National Fund and Educational Drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society at the Malacañang Social Hall, August 18, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3989-3990.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the National Radio and TV Newsmen's Club

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the National Radio and TV Newsmen's Club**

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, August 18, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

IT is a real pleasure to greet the newsmen of radio and TV. In a sense it is a reunion with old friends and fellow workers, for we have worked together in one of the tasks that is closest to my heart—the preservation of freedom. When I was secretary of national defense, you were an important element in the fight against communism, bringing, as you did, to all our people, an understanding of the evils of that world conspiracy and the falsity of the promises being made by their local agents to our people.

You contributed again to the preservation of freedom when you kept the nation alert and informed on the issues and problems involving free elections. In 1951 and again in 1953, your thorough coverage of these events right up to the very counting of returns was a very strong factor in keeping those elections clean and fair. I still remember with great satisfaction how many of our citizens spontaneously recognized the great value of your services by sending you food and refreshment as you worked uncomplainingly hour after hour until the last vote was in and counted.

Unquestionably one of the most important keystones in the structure of a free society is freedom of information. It is from this freedom that democracy draws its greatest strength. It is this freedom that is most feared by those who seek to impose dictatorship and tyranny upon mankind.

Freedom of information does not exist in the communist world. It is only by keeping this powerful instrument of truth suppressed that dictatorships can continue to rest safely upon the foundation of lies and fraud which keep their people in meek submission. At the same time this suppression of freedom of information is a great weakness of the communist world, for the truth sooner or later must leak through, and when it does their people will be all the more embittered by the fraud that has been perpetrated upon them.

Your work has been important but it is becoming even more important. The world of today is complex, and the forces which influence the lives of our people move at a faster pace. Our decisions must be made more quickly and must be based on facts rather than emotion. It becomes your task, therefore, to take the problems, and the issues, and the disputes of our day and reduce them to their simplest and most accurate terms. From the million of words that are spoken and printed on any given subject it becomes your responsibility to boil down the basic issues and the basic facts. These our people must understand if they are to function properly as citizens of a democracy directing their own destinies and demanding of their public servants that they observe those directions.

I know that the great majority of you have been aware of this responsibility and have given your best in living up to it. You may be sure that not only the people appreciate your efforts but also each public servant who takes seriously his commitments to those who have entrusted him with public office.

Both as a citizen of the Republic and as a public servant, I thank you and salute you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech before the National Radio and TV Newsmen's Club at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Thursday evening, August 18, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3991-3992.

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Youth Moral Rehabilitation Rally sponsored by the Manila Lions Club**

PRESIDENT	“OTI”,	DISTINGUISHED	MEMBERS
OF THE MANILA LIONS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:			

It is a healthy procedure—this self-examination and self-correction—a procedure which might well be adopted with great benefit to our country in the solution of the many problems that confront our people.

Indeed, the solution of the problem of moral degradation among our youth lies primarily within the little circle of the family. The work of the priest, the teacher, the social worker, must be supplementary to, and not merely supplemented by, the work of the father and the mother. There is no greater responsibility in this country than that of fatherhood and motherhood. At least equal to any responsibility as President is my responsibility as father to my own children.

My dear Lions of Manila, if you should be able to awaken our citizenry to the responsibility of fatherhood, I think you would be justified in considering this movement a success. You would then have achieved perhaps the most distinguished and effective undertaking of the many which you have initiated for the benefit of our people.

I see by the presence of these many citizens here that already your movement has caught fire. Permit me to add to the enthusiasm of this event my pledge that I will do all within my official and personal capacities to contribute to this great endeavour.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us congratulate the Manila Lions Club. This is a movement that provides a pattern for civic action in our time, for it challenges the citizen to re-examine himself and to perform his greatest civic duty—that of rearing his children for their future in our Republic and for their life beyond our world.

Ultimately, it is a question of a confirmation not only of our youth, but of our youths' parents and of all our people in the ways of Godliness. Your Government's policies today are directed towards the preservation of this Republic from the godless forces that are at large in Asia. While we strengthen ourselves against godlessness from the outside, this movement would have us remember to strengthen ourselves against godlessness within our own borders. This is the real message of the Youth Moral Rehabilitation Movement. Let us all heed this message. It means true security and strength for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech before the Youth Moral Rehabilitation Rally sponsored by the Manila Lions Club at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, Friday afternoon, August 19, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3992-3994.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Manila Lions Club

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Manila Lions Club

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, August 27, 1955]

I AM happy to be with you tonight.

You have conferred a new honor on Governor Carlos Rivilla, an eminent Filipino who is also a distinguished world citizen.

This is indeed a mark of your Club. It combines a healthy nationalism with sound internationalism. In today's world, where free nations are interdependent, where they can live and prosper only by jointly defending their freedom and jointly promoting their common welfare, this attitude should be fostered.

I am glad to be here for another reason. This Club is dedicated to constructive work for the betterment of human life in the community, in the nation, and in the world as a whole. You perform humanitarian service without discrimination and regardless of race, nationality, and political belief. You place the common good above every other consideration. To be with you is to be reminded that in the midst of tensions and conflicts, between nations and within nations, a great deal of quiet, unselfish, constructive work is going on.

Here in our own country, the good work of organizations like your own is being pursued without let-up, regardless of the political distractions experienced from time to time even in the best of working democracies. I take comfort in the fact that all over our country, devoted individuals and groups, in and out of the Government, are tirelessly helping our people to achieve that better life which they desire and to which they are entitled.

In our barrios and towns, the work of community development is going on without let-up, thanks to the devotion of so many of our people. Most of them are unknown. They are working for the common good without hope or desire for recognition or reward.

These thoughts should give all of us courage and hope on this, the eve of the political observance of our National Heroes Day. I have been in almost every corner of our country. I know our people. And I can say truly that the sacrifice of our heroes has not been in vain; that the teachings of Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, and other national heroes have taken root; that we have today many unsung heroes working quietly to make this land a better place to live in for ourselves and for our children.

To be with you this evening is also to be reminded that we are living in a world that is getting smaller day by day. It is to realize anew that in this atomic age no free nation can live and prosper in isolation. Safety and well-being lie in peaceful cooperation with other free nations, not in selfish unconcern for the welfare of others or in foolish disregard of the dangers of isolation in a hostile world.

You are part of a great international organization. I am reminded of this fact as I stand before you. And I am reminded also that, like your local Lions unit, our country is not alone in meeting its problems, but can rely on generous, unselfish assistance from friends and allies who in turn enjoy our friendship and cooperation.

We believe in, and we zealously practice self-help. And because we do help ourselves to the limit of our capacity, we can accept in good faith and with good conscience the assistance of our allies and friends in the free world.

We in the Philippines are part of a great association of free nations. Our security and our prosperity lie in maintaining our close ties with the free world, not in the path of isolationism which someone would have us follow.

This is the thought that I should like to leave with you this evening. We are facing problems of national security, problems of national welfare, problems of national survival. We owe it to our national heroes, to ourselves, to our prosperity, to do everything humanly possible—by our own efforts and jointly with other free nations—to attack these problems with courage, with national self-confidence, and with determination.

Let us live up to the standards of our national heroes whose memories we honor tomorrow. For them there was no compromise with freedom. They did not wait to see which side would win. They stood for freedom and fought for freedom—and died for freedom. Let it never be said that they were the last Filipino heroes.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech before the Manila Lions Club, Saturday night, August 27, 1955, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(9), 4498-4499.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the flag ceremony sponsored by the Manila Jaycees

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the flag ceremony sponsored by the Manila Jaycees**

[Delivered in Luneta, August 28, 1955]

PRESIDENT DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE "CHARLIE"
JUNIOR CHAMBER OF THE MANILA
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: COMMERCE

THE Jaycees of the Philippines have undertaken many bold and fruitful projects. Their efforts on behalf of Democracy have gone beyond the bounds of our own territory and have earned respect for the name of our country among people of neighboring lands.

Today you are inaugurating a ceremony which seeks to put reverence for our flag in its proper place in the hearts and in the daily lives of our people. You could not have chosen a more proper day nor a more fitting audience for this inauguration.

I am happy to see that you have gathered the youth here this afternoon to witness this rededication to the flag of our country. It is the youth that are always called upon to defend it. And I venture to think that in asking them to come here the Jaycees truly intended to honor them in the shadow of our flag

I would also like to think that the choice of this day, on which we honor the memory of the men who lived and died to keep our flag unfurled and glorious, was one made in harmony with the choice of an audience. Most of the patriots that the country honors today displayed their heroism at an early age, at a youthful age, at an age represented by most of you whom I see before me today.

It is well that you are here to be present at this reconsecration to our flag, for it is you upon whom the country depends to reenact the heroism of today's honored patriots. And it is well that I now have the privilege of pausing with you and pondering on the significance and the impact of this great combination—a rededication to our flag on the day of our heroes by the youth of our land.

What is a flag? It is easy to wave it but it is not as easy to describe and to understand what it is.

Poets and orators have attempted to analyze its meaning for us. One poet perhaps was more successful than others. He imagines the flag coming to life and saying—

"I am not the flag; not at all. I am but its shadow.

"I am whatever you make me, nothing more.

"I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become.

"... always, I am all that you hope it be, and have the courage to try for.

.....

“I am what you make me, nothing more.”

What have we made of our flag? How have we fashioned it?

It is *not* made of compromise. The heroes that we honor today, the young heroes who tinted that flag with the red of their own blood, are deserving of our reverence because they refused to compromise with tyranny.

If we would indeed reconsecrate ourselves to our flag today, then let us pledge to do battle with the spirit of compromise. Our country, like many free lands in our world faces the threat of a new tyranny. It is the most terrible and the most despotic of all tyrannies in history, for it boasts that its strength comes from Godlessness. We would be dishonoring our flag if we did not prepare ourselves against this tyranny and if we did not stamp out its flames of subversion whenever they are discovered in our midst. We would be unworthy of the blood of our heroes if we did not ally ourselves with all free nations of the world to protect from this tyranny the liberty of all men. We would be surrendering to compromise, that stuff of which our flag is not made, were we to heed those who would want us to lie quiet and non-committal while the Godless tyrant plots to subvert our independence.

There are other things of which our flag is not made. It is not made of indolence or cynicism or of despair. If its fabric is resistant, it is because there are woven into it the strong cords of hope, of courage, and of action. It is made less of words than of work, less of argument than of sacrifice.

All this is what we see or what we should see when we look at our flag.

Let it rise, then, now and every day on this chosen spot. Let the arms that shall raise it be those of the youth, for as the poet would have it, you, my dear young men, are indeed the flag and that piece of cloth, only your shadow. It is you who must keep on making it and it shall be what you shall make it, nothing more. Weave into it then your dreams and your labors, your faith and your courage; let not your word or deed do it dishonor, for, as it is your shadow, it shall be faithful to your every thought, your every word, your every action.

As you are uncompromising, so shall it be uncompromised. As you are courageous, so shall it reflect courage. As you are patriotic, so shall it honor your country. As you are God-fearing, so shall it give glory to God.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the flag ceremony sponsored by the Manila Jaycees at the Luneta, Sunday afternoon, August 28, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(9), 4499-4501.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the dinner in Honor of U.S. State Undersecretary Herbert Hoover, Jr., and ICA Director John B. Hollister and their Ladies

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the dinner in Honor of U.S. State Undersecretary Herbert Hoover, Jr., and ICA Director
John B. Hollister and their Ladies**

[Delivered at Malacañang, October 12, 1955]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WISH to welcome our honored guests and assure them that we are happy they are with us and we can make them feel at home here in our midst. We have one word in Tagalog—*Mabuhay*—which means not only long life but a greeting, a welcome, a salutation; so, to them and to their ladies I say *Mabuhay*.

You come at a time when we are anxious for you as our friends to see our problems as we face them. We have difficult ones. We have been tackling them as best we can, but such is their magnitude that they cannot be met in the spirit of self-sufficiency.

You will find a nation here that loves freedom above anything else and is averse to anything and everything that smacks of dictatorship and tyranny. That is why we are close to you because we share the same faith and the same ideals. We fought communism because we are convinced it is the enemy of human dignity and we will continue upholding all the democratic values that enrich life because they mean greater opportunities for the masses, for the underprivileged, as well as for all the citizenry.

In the spirit of that friendship that has linked our two countries together all these years and which it is my determination to continue fostering, I greet you and bid you welcome. Please feel that you are at home. Again, *Mabuhay*!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay on the occasion of the dinner he gave in Malacañang in honor of U.S. State Undersecretary Herbert Hoover, Jr., and ICA Director John B. Hollister and their Ladies. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (10), 5046-5047.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the 11th Anniversary of General Douglas MacArthur's Leyte landing

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On the 11th Anniversary of General Douglas MacArthur's Leyte landing

[Delivered on October 20, 1955]

ELEVEN years ago, we greeted this day with great rejoicing. The spirit of jubilation quickly spread throughout the land and was echoed by all of our people. For on that day and at this very place, we were witnesses to the event for which we had waited for what seemed a lifetime—the landing in the Philippines of the American forces of liberation.

That event meant the end of the long night of the enemy occupation, of three years of suffering, oppression, and humiliation. It marked a turning point in our history.

But October 20, 1945, should be remembered not for its historic significance alone. Aside from being a day of deliverance, that date marked the vindication of our faith in America. I believe, therefore, that we should yearly commemorate the 20th of October also as a reaffirmation of the unique and lasting friendship that binds our country and the United States of America. That friendship has endured and will endure because it is founded on common ideals, on sacrifices shared equally, in unity in the face of dangers fought and conquered by joint effort.

This is what the historic landing on Leyte should remind us of Friendship of this kind is priceless and should be cherished. There is no substitute for it. Perhaps this is the reason why even the bitterest critic of our policy of friendship with America can offer no alternative for it.

But should we maintain this friendship now and in the days to come? I say emphatically that we should.

Liberation and the end of the last great war did not mean that the world was once more free to resume its interrupted march towards peace, progress, and security. Hardly had the embers of that great conflagration died down when the same totalitarian forces that brought it about began sowing the seeds of new conflicts and dissensions.

Shortly thereafter, the world was again to be divided into two opposing camps, one dedicated to the cause of peace and freedom and the other committed to the policy of aggression and eventual world domination. While the former was engaged in repairing the ravages of war and in bringing order and hope out of confusion and despair, the latter was busy taking advantage of these conditions for its own selfish ends. World communism lost no time in exploiting the uncertainties and the instability of the early postwar years to further its own sinister aims. Through subversion and outright aggression, the Communists were able to obstruct the free world's efforts to reconstruct. Relentlessly the Communists enlarged their ever expanding domain at the expense of world peace and security.

We in the Philippines were not spared. The Huk movement in our country is directed and led by Communists. Communism was able to subvert the minds of some of our countrymen into opposing and obstructing, through deceit, guile, and violence, our efforts to bring about a freer and fuller life for our people. We were fortunate in defeating the Huks and in thwarting Communist designs on our integrity and survival as a free nation.

But other countries have not been as fortunate. Since the end of the last war, communism has made substantial gains, territorially and otherwise, in practically all parts of the world. The Communist empire was steadily expanded through infiltration, subversion, and outright aggression. Today, the borders of that empire extend to within a few hundred nautical miles from our shores.

In the face of this threat to our national existence, our Government has taken the most logical and practical step to safeguard our security. That step was to strengthen our ties with the United States of America, ties which had been tested in the past, in times of wellbeing and of adversity.

Some have suggested that we might find greater security if we avoid outside commitments and undertake our own defense within our own means. This course is obviously unrealistic. As a young republic burdened with the heavy tasks of nation-building, we lack the means to ensure our security by our own unaided efforts.

Others have suggested that we may find safety in neutrality. But on examination, we find this course equally untenable. Even disregarding our principles and convictions and looking at the problem in the light of national survival alone, our judgment should dictate otherwise. Militarily, our country is a strategic prize which no belligerent could ignore. Economically, our natural resources are a temptation which a would-be aggressor could not disregard. Our limited defense capacity is an open invitation to aggression.

Besides, neutrality is expensive. The neutral state, to preserve its independence, must be prepared to defend it against both sides. This policy entails an obligation to maintain an extremely costly defense establishment and to keep a very large number of able-bodied citizens constantly under arms.

In today's world, there is no safety in isolation even for great powers, and much less for small nations like ours. Practical realism, therefore, as well as moral conviction, makes defensive alliances with friendly countries of the free world a compelling necessity in our own national interest. This is the course your Government has followed to assure our survival as a free and sovereign people.

This is the reason why we have a mutual defense treaty with the United States. Under this treaty the United States is committed to "act immediately" and has assured us that its forces "would automatically react," in case the Philippines is attacked. This pledge is contained in written commitments solemnly made and is inherent in the existence of United States military bases in our country.

To further insure our security, we have entered into a regional pact with other countries in our area in common defense of our security. Under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty is pooled together the collective strength of eight countries, including the United States.

In addition, in the United Nations and through international conferences like the recent Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, we have done our best to contribute towards the strengthening of the desire and the will of free nations to undertake a collective defense of freedom.

Thus, we have sought to protect our people by every possible means, including security arrangements—bilateral, regional, and international.

The Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty has been criticized because it allegedly does not have provision for instant and effective collective action in case of armed attack which the North Atlantic Treaty is supposed to contain. It is not generally realized, however, that the North Atlantic Treaty itself does not provide for "automatic action."

The United States' interpretation of that Pact when it was under discussion in the United States Congress was that each Party would be free to "exercise honest and genuine judgment in determining what action is necessary for the restoration of peace when another Party has been attacked." In other words, the effectiveness of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty—or any treaty for that matter—should be judged not only from its language but also from its underlying spirit. Insofar as the Philippines is concerned, that effectiveness should also be viewed in the light of the renewed United States pledge of immediate and automatic action, under our Mutual Defense Pact with that country, in case the Philippines is attacked.

If there is any difference at all between the two treaties, that difference is one of form and not of substance. The signers of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty have amply demonstrated that they are imbued with the same will, unity, and sincerity of purpose as those which have actuated the signatories of the North Atlantic Pact.

There is urgent need at this time to maintain at full strength that unity of purpose and that determination to act jointly in the common defense. The most serious danger to the cause of freedom today is the temptation among the free nations to relax, to lower their guard, in the mistaken belief that international communism may be induced to abandon its objectives of world domination. This is wishful thinking of the most dangerous sort.

The Communist conspiracy to rule the world cannot be wished away. The free world is learning this all over again the hard way. Despite the so-called "Spirit of Geneva," Communist intrigues have caused new tensions in various parts of the world. The only sure defense for the free nations is to maintain their strength, to remain firmly united, and to keep faith with one another.

This is also the lesson of the Leyte landing which we commemorate today.

Some would cast doubt on the sincerity of America. They would have our people believe that the United States cannot be relied upon to fulfill its defense pledge to assist and protect our country. The Leyte landing, and the liberation that followed, refute all such charges with fidelity.

But faith and sincerity as between our two countries are meaningless unless they are mutually felt and mutually expressed. We, too, are called upon to reaffirm our determination to keep faith.

Indeed, there can be no better or more appropriate way for us to commemorate the Leyte landing than to renew our pledge to keep faith with our friends and with the ideals of freedom, dignity, and peace for which we—as friends and allies—worked and fought together.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech on the 11th anniversary of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Leyte landing, delivered Thursday morning, October 20, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(10), 5048-5051.

United Nations Speech of President Magsaysay read by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia

**United Nations Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Read by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia**

[Read at the Manila Hotel, October 24, 1955]

ON the first day of Philippine independence, President Roxas declared "A new era has come to the Orient. From this day forward our international responsibility is absolute."

We lost no time in assuming that responsibility. Our independence was declared just in time for the Philippines to join the world community of nations in signing the United Nations charter. And the Philippines immediately gave vigorous and active support to the principles embodied in the United Nations.

We raised clear and strong voices in support of the democratic principles which have meant so much to us. We defended the rights of all exploited and oppressed peoples. We rallied with other freedom-loving peoples to halt aggression, to raise the dignity of man, to promote exchanges of information and peoples, and to establish and maintain peace on earth.

Individual Filipinos have represented us in serving the United Nations in several dedicated and distinguished ways. We have been represented on major panels dealing with Korean and Palestine problems. Filipinos have been chairmen of international conferences of freedom of information. A Filipino has served as president of the General Assembly. Filipinos have fought with UN forces on the battlefields of freedom.

And to us the United Nations is more than a remote international organization. We have seen and felt the United Nations right here in the Philippines. We have been hosts to conferences and to headquarters of its regional and specialized agencies. We have felt the United Nations goodwill and brotherhood in our barrios where UN programs to help our people are being conducted.

Some observers state that the Philippine role in the United Nations is out of proportion to our size and our population. I submit that our active role in support of the UN is in direct proportion to our belief in its ideals and principles.

We subscribe to justice and decency in the conduct of human affairs; to liberty, individual rights, and human dignity; to the freedoms of speech, religion and from want. We dedicate our efforts toward the preservation of peace. We hold firm to the principles of democracy and resist the threats of dictatorship and subversion.

It is for these reasons that we have such faith in the United Nations and have been eager to do perhaps a little more than our share to make it successful. The basic principles of the UN are the basic principles of the Philippine Republic and of our people.

In the same way that it has made nations united, adherence to these principles has made us a people united. And in such unity there is strength. We have demonstrated that in our homes, in our nation and in the United Nations. Strength through unity is the cornerstone of the United Nations.

The United Nations is ten years old. During these years it has been confronted with more obstacles than we care to recall. Like in every worthwhile effort there are prophets of doubts, discouragement and fear lurking around it. And these counsels of fear have not prevailed, however, whenever and wherever confronted with resolution and strength.

This is the essence of the so-called Geneva Look, which holds promise of giving the world greater insurance for peace. The Geneva Look was a direct result of free world strength through unity. It provides positive approaches to the cause of peace as well as firm resistance to aggression and oppression.

The preservation of peace depends upon the effective application of collective security measures. We intend to fulfill our international responsibility by taking an active part in collective security programs. The SEATO is but one example. We intend to build collective security on even stronger foundations, such as mutual respect and understanding, exchange programs and sharing efforts to solve common problems. We want to know our neighbors in Free Vietnam, in Indonesia, in Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos—we want to become friends not just with their government officials but with their peoples.

And here again our personal hopes and desires are a direct demonstration of the same principles which created and built the United Nations. Friendship, understanding and respect are weapons of peace. We aim to fulfill our obligations to the UN charter by employing such weapons.

But to carry out effective programs for peace with our neighbors we must be strong at home. We know better than many other peoples the horror and waste of war. We know also the dangers and destruction of Communist-inspired programs of terrorism and sabotage. We have had a bitter taste of each.

Today we may be faced with an even greater threat—the subtle maneuverings of Communist infiltration of our democratic processes of government. They attack those who are dedicated to the welfare of the people. They detract from logic with waves of emotion. They make promises which they never intend to fulfill. They make offers so sweet to the taste yet so bitter to the stomach after they are swallowed.

Peace and unity like charity begin at home. We must demonstrate strength and unity. We must preserve and insure freedom and democracy at home—in our own country. Then, and only then, can we contribute to collective security and to the United Nations in fulfillment of our international responsibilities.

The road we travel may be dark. But it is the only road. We take it with confidence, with strength. We take it hand in hand with the United Nations. We take it hand in hand with God. We knew the road leads to peace.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's United Nations speech read by Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia at the Manila Hotel Monday evening, October 24, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(10), 5052-5054.

Recorded Speech of President Magsaysay on urging all voters to vote on Election Day

Recorded Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On urging all voters to vote on Election Day

[Originally delivered at the Malacañang Study Room and rebroadcast over radio stations, November 6, 1955]

GOOD EVENING, MY COUNTRYMEN:

I WOULD like to talk to you at this time not so much as your President, but rather as a fellow-citizen having a common concern for the welfare of our nation and our people.

It is my hope that on Tuesday every qualified voter will go to the polls and exercise the precious right of free and independent Filipinos to select those who are to serve in our government. I know that some of you already have made your choice, but there may be more who have been confused by the conflicting claims of a typical election campaign. For all of us, it might be useful at this time to review the whole subject of the coming election.

First, let us recall this same season two years ago, when the great majority of you decided that you wanted a new administration and you voted overwhelmingly for the Nacionalista candidates, including myself. Why did you vote as you did? I understand and deeply appreciate your decision as a gesture of faith and confidence. But there was another reason, and this is a good time to remember it: a good time to remember that your landslide vote of two years ago was intended to overthrow the impotent, corrupt, wasteful, and despotic administration of the Liberal Party!

For six years the Liberals held the reins of our government. What was their record? Some of them were enormously enriched, but the nation was brought to the brink of bankruptcy. Confidence in our democratic institutions was almost destroyed. The majority of our people, particularly the seventy-five per cent who work on our farmlands to support the nation, were neglected and forgotten.

During the past couple of months this same Liberal Party has asked you to return some of its members to power. Why? What evidence have they shown of reform, of any change in their cynical and self-serving mentality? On the contrary, their present campaign proves that they are still motivated by their old lust for power merely for the sake of power. They have shown the same old lack of principle, the same kind of sordid opportunism that seeks and welcomes votes regardless of the source.

I do not say that there are no good men and women in the Liberal ranks. I do say, however, that those men and women are still chained to a discredited and rejected political machine which is completely unresponsive to the national interest.

The Liberal Party has gone to you in the current campaign and asked for your vote. What reasons have they given? What constructive program have they advanced? We find only a few main themes running through their campaign propaganda. One is the charge of dictatorship, which even the Liberals privately agree is so baseless and foolish that it requires no analysis or reply. An amusing twist to this charge is that its loudest exponent is one who in 1949 was robbed of his election as senator by the same Liberal Party, which he now holds up as the last hope of democracy in this country. Another Liberal Party line is the negative plea that our democracy needs a strong opposition to fiscalize the Administration, and the amazing claim that only they—the present Liberal candidates—can perform this function.

I agree that a strong opposition is desirable and that alert fiscalizers are essential. However, I challenge the Liberal claim that these elements are lacking in our government, and that they alone can provide them. It is an insult to the

incumbent members of Congress, who come from both parties. It is an insult to our press, radio, and civic organizations. In fact, it is an insult to the intelligence of the Filipino electorate. All of these individuals and groups have been consistent and effective fiscalizers. To say that any one man or group of men is exclusively qualified by mentality or patriotism for this purpose bespeaks an arrogance too brazen for serious consideration.

In their frantic search for issues, Liberal Party spokesmen have even been shameless enough to charge this administration with subservience” and “mendicancy”. Do they think we have forgotten the Liberal Party president who had to crawl to an American ambassador’s residence one morning to apologize for a stupid and malicious attack he himself had ordered his office of information to issue? Do they think we have forgotten the Liberal administration which had to beg America for funds to pay our teachers and our armed forces when their plundered treasury was empty? Do they think we have forgotten that they had to beg for a team of American experts to tell them how to save our economy from complete collapse? And when these experts, the Bell Mission, wisely advised them in 1950 to seek revision of the Philippine Trade Act, did the Liberals move promptly? It was the present administration that sought and secured such revision within less than eighteen months of taking office.

Only two years ago you gave the Nacionalista administration a national task and responsibility. It was clear from your mandate that you expected us to pursue a program of social and economic development that would give us a sound base for the expansion so vital to the well-being of all our people and to the growth of the republic. You expected us to make provision for the national security and for the maintenance of internal stability. You agreed that it was desirable for us to broaden our contact and strengthen our influence with our Asian neighbors. But above all you gave priority to the task of bringing the great mass of our rural population up to the modern standards of living which are their right in a democracy, and without which national progress is impossible.

Honest and sober examination of the record of the past two years will show that we have worked hard at the job of carrying out your mandate in every one of the areas mentioned. Such examination of the record will also reveal that very considerable gains have been made. In some areas, our accomplishment has been more substantial than in others, but in no instance have we taken a backward step.

It should not be necessary to remind you of the condition in which the Liberal administration left our nation in 1953. There was disillusionment and fear, despair and misery, in every corner of our land. It takes no expert analyst to see and feel the difference in the national atmosphere as of today. In fact I am sure that even the opposition candidates, in the course of their current campaign, must have been benefited by some of the improvements that have taken place. Compared with my campaign experience in 1953, they found thousands of places where they could have a safe drink of water, places which could boast no such luxury under the Liberals. They also enjoyed thousands of kilometers of new roads over which they could reach their barrio targets in comfortable cars. In 1953 I had to walk to many of those barrios through swamps and over miserable trails.

This administration seeks no praise for what has been accomplished. That after all, is what we were elected for. We are simply carrying out our jobs as public servants. At the same time, we need make no apologies for what still remains to be done. We are not only carrying out our own tasks with conscientious vigor but we are also making good progress cleaning up the mess left by our Liberal predecessors.

As I have said I do not deny the existence of able and patriotic citizens among the Liberals. I feel that there are many who could contribute much in terms of service to the country. But before they can expect that their services will be accepted, they must first recognize the obligation of imposing upon their party adequate standards of political morality and public service.

For the present, therefore, I must ask that you give this administration the support it requires to fulfill its program by voting into office all of our Nacionalista candidates. This is all the more important because we are a *working* administration rather than one devoted to self-perpetuation by political means. In the two years that lie ahead there is a tremendous amount of constructive work to be done if we are to justify your faith and confidence. There are many natural obstacles to be overcome in achieving our goals. For this task we need in our government not the expert obstructive politician but the cooperative and willing worker.

In urging you to vote Nacionalista in the coming election, I might point out one of the facts of political life. The Nacionalista Party at this time carries the responsibility for the administration. If it hopes to remain in power, it must carry out to your satisfaction the constructive program of economic and social development to which it has been committed. The opposition party, too, will seek your favor in 1957. Their means of achieving it lies in obstructing and wrecking the administration program, thereby discrediting the Nacionalista Party. It is up to you, therefore, whether the next two years are to be spent usefully and constructively in work for the common welfare, or whether the next two years are to be wasted in unproductive political struggle which benefits only a few of those who engage in it.

These are the thoughts I want to leave with you tonight. You will be doing a great service to yourself and your community and to your nation if you ponder upon them carefully. We Filipinos have the reputation of being swayed easily by emotion and sentiment. I believe, however, that we are also capable of being practical when the problem is big enough to call for serious consideration. I feel that our problem today is certainly big enough.

The demands of our growing population and of maintaining and advancing our nation's position in a fast moving world call for the best that is in us. Our political life must be directed to these imperative needs. Brilliant oratory and parliamentary polish are luxuries which must become secondary to hard work and a broad and dedicated social outlook. Such is the administration I intend to give you during my term in office. What I ask of you is that you give me a supporting team which shares my outlook and is willing to win your approval with work rather than words. What I ask is that you think carefully, pray for the guidance of God's wisdom, then go out and vote.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's recorded speech urging all voters to vote on Election Day, originally delivered at the Malacañang Study Room and rebroadcast over radio stations Sunday evening, November 6, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(11), 5577-5581.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Bureau of Public Works

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Bureau of Public Works**

[Read by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, November 12, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

It is a pleasure to celebrate with you the golden anniversary of the Bureau of Public Works. Gathered here are the people who have been instrumental in the progress, through public works, that we see around us and who will further be instrumental in implementing to a marked degree the economic program of this Administration designed for the upliftment of our people's standards of living. I therefore am happy to greet you on this, your golden jubilee, you who will translate into reality our aims and aspirations for an economically stable Philippines.

On this occasion let me review briefly the splendid work you have done during the last fifty years. We have roads throughout the country that serve as the arteries for our trade and commerce. Irrigation systems have been constructed in order to increase the production of our staple crops. Based upon the conservation, development, and utilization of our land and water resources, irrigation projects have been undertaken commensurate with the funds made available for the purpose from time to time. Water supply systems and artesian wells, satisfying the requirements of health, public safety, and welfare, have been installed. River control and drainage activities so far undertaken are tangible achievements to show the attention that your organization has given to the lives and properties that are provided protection against the ravages of floods.

The accomplishments on port facilities are worthy of the organization behind such activities. We do not also fail to recognize the improvement in the people's living standards occasioned by the mechanical and electrical installations effected by your organization. Electric power plants, pumping plants, air-conditioning systems, telephone systems, and the like, are structures which will always remain a credit to such an outfit as the Bureau of Public Works.

These accomplishments and achievements of the Bureau for the last half century have actually contributed in an appreciable measure toward our national economy by way of affording employment to a sizable number of people, support and patronage to the local contracting industry as well as such industries engaged in the development and manufacture of local materials of construction, and improvement of the living conditions of the masses. Let us admit, however, that there still remains more to be done, if we are to maintain the present levels of living, and still much more to be done if we are to reach higher standards. Looking far ahead and realizing the immensity of our needs, we know these accomplishments are modest indeed, but they certainly indicate that we are on a steady march forward.

At this point, my friends, I must not forget to convey to you my heartfelt appreciation for the splendid cooperation you have extended to this new Administration. It is a matter of record that during the first two years of this Administration, out of a total of 9,012 projects on various types of public works authorized and initiated, 3,413 projects were completed and 5,599 projects were launched underway. This accomplishment represents almost three times as much as that of the last two years of the past Administration. For irrigation alone, 147 national and communal gravity irrigation systems were completed and 42 projects are under construction, with an aggregate irrigable area of 157,000 hectares. For water supply systems, including spring development, there are 662 projects initiated with 221 completed and 441 underway, serving a total of about 520,000 people in different communities of the country. A total of 4,312 artesian well projects were initiated, out of which, 2,354 were actually completed and 1,958 are underway, including the construction of the now famous Liberty Wells. On port facilities, including national and municipal ports, 138 out of 347 projects were completed. A total of 3,336 building projects were programmed, excluding pre-fabricated school buildings, and 475 projects were completed; adding to these 1,068 pre-fabricated school buildings completed, there is a total of 1,543 buildings of all types completed.

Accomplishment on mechanical and electrical installations consisting of power plants, electrical installations, air-conditioning systems, etc., covers the completion of 35 out of 40 projects. This, my friends, is a satisfactory record of action, which is enough incentive and starter for an accelerated pace of development.

This Administration is determined to ameliorate the plight of the greater bulk of our population by causing the benefits of social and civilized living to reach the barrios. We have to give them artesian wells, barrio schools, barrio roads, and the like. After all, the supply of our foods comes from the barrios; the bulk of agricultural labor, and oftentimes industrial labor, comes from the barrios; the bulk of our manpower is drawn from the barrios. In one word, the very root of our democracy is the barrio. If the welfare and condition of our barrio folks have long been neglected, certainly this Administration is determined to improve their lot. While such works that will be installed in the barrios as wells, schools, and roads may not be revenue-producing, these projects, when integrated with long-range projects that are revenue-producing, conceived to conform with a master plan for over-all benefits, will redound to an improved national economy. The effects of such a program, essentially for public works, will mean that there will be more jobs to ease our huge unemployment problem. Trades and establishments will hum with activity for even the normal needs of the program execution. Existing enterprises will be enlivened and new industries will spring up, especially for the development of local materials and resources. Engineering architectural and contracting firms, as well as commodity dealers and manufacturing plants, in support of the volume of public works activities, will be stimulated.

I call on you, the specialists on public works, to consider this as a new challenge to service and duty, after having reached the fiftieth anniversary of your organization. We are aware that henceforth, your goals are higher and therefore the attendant problems will be more complex and difficult. The record of your achievements for the last fifty years is a convincing testimonial that the Bureau of Public Works will reach its goals.

In closing, I wish to reiterate my congratulations to you all on this, your Golden Anniversary, and may you have more fruitful anniversaries in the years to come.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Bureau of Public Works, read for the President by Executive Secretary Fred Ruiz Castro at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, Saturday afternoon, November 12, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(11), 5581-5583.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the inauguration of the Veterans Memorial Hospital

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the inauguration of the Veterans Memorial Hospital

[Delivered in Diliman, Quezon City, November 20, 1955]

THIS occasion brings to a close a week-long celebration of a rare relationship between the people of two nations. It has been our custom to devote a day each year to the celebration of more than fifty years of friendship between Filipinos and Americans. This year, Philippine-American Day was extended for an entire week so that this ceremony might serve as a fitting climax.

The gift being turned over to the Philippine Government today is a magnificent one. It is probably the finest and most modern hospital of its kind in this part of the world. Just completed at a cost of P18 million, it is a gift of the American people to Filipino veterans, an assurance that their health and rehabilitation will enjoy the best care that medical science can offer.

In this event we have a concrete demonstration of the warm and generous friendship that characterizes the Philippine-American relationship. To each of us, veteran or not, it carries a very special message, a hopeful and encouraging message in terms of the future of humanity. It gives us reason to believe that, in this troubled world, human goodness still outweighs evil.

To me this day has a very special and personal significance. It was my privilege and good fortune to play a part in the very beginnings of this splendid memorial. I recall vividly the feeling of inadequacy and uncertainty with which I undertook a mission, with Congressman Cinco and Father Haggerty, at the behest of President Roxas, to Washington in 1948. I felt very deeply that the mission was a necessary one, that our veterans needed and deserved far more assistance than their own government was able to afford. And I felt that the only place to look for that assistance was in America.

It was clear to me, however, that I had no special qualifications for the task I had undertaken—except a thorough understanding of the problems and needs of the veterans and a strong determination to get something done about them. I realized that the name of Magsaysay was relatively unknown in Washington and that the Government of the United States at the time was faced by the many problems and the heavy burdens of restoring a war-stricken world. But personal experience with Americans sustained me in the conviction that somewhere in Washington I would find sympathetic ears for our story and sympathetic hearts to respond to the needs of the Filipino heroes who had fought so gallantly at the side of their American comrades.

In Washington I found that I had not been wrong in my appraisal of the situation. An entire world wrecked by war was clamoring for America's attention and America's aid. The face of a new enemy, world communism, was already recognized and it was desperately urgent for America to act quickly if millions of free men were not to slip behind the Iron Curtain. But I found also that my *hopes* were justified. I found in the American Congress friends of the Philippines who responded quickly and effectively once the need of our veterans became known. Their enthusiasm and their efforts made possible the passage of the Rogers Bill which has meant so much to our veterans and their dependents and which is responsible for the splendid hospital we are dedicating here today.

As I have said, the significance of this event has meaning for each of us. What it means to the veteran is clear not only from the point of view of these new medical facilities made available for his care, but also from the fact that American friendship has brought the Filipino veterans since the end of the war more than P1,000,000,000 in cash payments, payments which continue to flow into our country quietly and without benefit of publicity. The benefits of this steady flow of income into the economy of our nation are felt by every Filipino man, woman, and child.

There is another significant aspect of this occasion which must not escape notice. Perhaps better than anything else it emphasizes the wholesome nature of the Philippine-American relationship over the past half century. This great scientific institution is being turned over today to the Philippine Government. It will be administered and staffed entirely by Filipinos. Our own doctors and surgeons will utilize these facilities. Our own skilled technicians will maintain all necessary functions. That we as a people are in a position to do this is in sharp contrast with the experience of our Asian neighbors. It is not only a credit to our people and a source of great national pride but a tribute to the far-sighted and enlightened stewardship of America during the period of her sovereignty here.

These are only a few of the thoughts which occur to the thoughtful observer on this occasion, but they are sufficient to explain why we feel as we do about Philippine-American friendship. Out of the years of our relationship there has come the realization that our people share the same ideals of freedom and justice, that we subscribe in common to the concept of a world in which the individual and his rights are superior to the state, a democratic world in which peace and human dignity rather than lust for power are paramount. It was in defense of these common principles and ideals that Americans and Filipinos fought side by side in the last war. And out of our experience since that war has come the realization that there are even closer bonds, closer in the sense that they go beyond the mere sharing of ideas. Such bonds can exist between casual acquaintances, but it is only between true and loyal friends that we find the bonds of loyalty, the bonds of quick and willing response of each to the other's need.

The Filipino who is today's veteran fought at the side of Americans not because he was ordered to do so but because he deeply believed in the ideals which America was then fighting to preserve, and because he had faith in America as a trustworthy ally. He and his younger brother who might be tomorrow's veteran, feel even more strongly that their cause is just and that their judgment is sound. Since they have known the horrors of war, they would spare no effort in seeking peace, but having grown up in a democracy and having known its blessings, they will not hesitate, if the need arises once more, to defend it with their lives. Whether for peace or, war they will continue to look toward America as a friend and ally worthy of their trust.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the inauguration of the Veterans Memorial Hospital, Sunday afternoon, November 20, 1955, Diliman, Q. C. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(11), 5583-5586.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the unveiling of the Roxas Marker at Clark Air Force Base

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the unveiling of the Roxas Marker at Clark Air Force Base

[Delivered at the Clark Air Force Base, November 30, 1955]

IT is most fitting that Americans should join us here today in dedicating this memorial to a great Filipino, the late Manuel Acuña Roxas, first President of the Republic of the Philippines. It is fitting because Fate seems to have decreed that Manuel Roxas represent during his lifetime the essence of Filipinism in each great phase of the relationship between our nation and America.

Though justly honored as a scholar and a statesman, Manuel Roxas held the admiration and devotion of his countrymen chiefly as a great nationalist. It was his eloquence and fighting spirit that expressed the will and determination of our people to achieve independent nationhood. The vigor and brilliance of his campaign won respect and sympathy in Washington. Here, at home, it assured him of an enduring place in the company of our patriots and heroes.

During the war, Manuel Roxas again showed America the true nature of Philippine nationalism. In the man who refused to be an involuntary subject, they found a courageous and loyal ally when it came to fighting for common principles and ideals, for freedom and justice.

The grand design was completed when America fulfilled its pledge to yield sovereignty of this land to the Filipino people and the Filipino people exercised their democratic rights to choose Manuel Roxas as first President of the new Republic. The man who had fought for the end of American rule, who had later fought alongside Americans against a common enemy—that same man at last found himself in a position to determine the relations between the two countries.

One of the tragic dates of Philippine history is April 15, 1948, the day that saw the untimely end of the brilliant career of Manuel Roxas, who uttered his last words here at Clark Air Base. Those last words are perhaps the best measure of our nation's loss, the best measure of the wisdom and foresight with which our first President appraised the major problem of our times. Let me quote portions of that last address.

Said President Roxas: "The rapid progress in the development of this base attests not only to the friendship, the enduring friendship, that exists between Americans and Filipinos, but likewise it attests to the indestructible faith that Americans and Filipinos have for one another The establishment of American bases in the Philippines was the result of the voluntary and free choice of Americans and Filipinos"

"World peace cannot be maintained if each nation acting separately should merely wait for the aggressor at its border. There must be a complete and final agreement on the part of peace-and liberty-loving peoples of the world to stop, and if necessary, to fight any aggressor that may want to trample upon the liberties of other peoples or to interfere in the free exercise of their sovereignties"

"The democracies of the world have to take a stand and they must make that stand unitedly. Conversations and every effort should certainly be made to avoid war The freedom-loving peoples of the world do not want war. I know the United States hates war and I know the United States does not want war now or ever . . . (but) I am very happy that the President of the United States, supported by the American Congress, has at last shown an indication that it is going to prepare for war, that America is going to make a stand and say to the aggressor that 'you can go this far but no further or we will fight.' That attitude of the United States of America, the greatest, the noblest, and the most altruistic nation in the world today, has inspired all the peoples of the earth with a new faith, with a new confidence, that war may be averted. But if war should come, if God in His supreme wisdom shall will it that the

scourge of war again visit the bewildered peoples of this earth, I am certain of one thing—probably the only thing about which I can be certain—and it is this, that in case of a new war waged by the aggressor against the forces of freedom and liberty, American and Filipino soldiers will again fight side by side in the same trenches or in the air, in defense of justice, freedom, and the other principles which we both love and cherish “

Those, my friends, were the words spoken by our great nationalist, the late President Roxas, more than seven years ago. Who can deny that they are still a sound estimate of the world’s peace problem? Who can deny that they still ring true as a reflection of Filipino thinking and character?

I am happy to join in this tribute to the memory of one of our truly great leaders. But I feel that Manuel Roxas has an even more enduring memorial in the hearts of his people, in the pages of our nation’s history. The record of his service and of his wisdom is a memorial to which we can and should turn for generations to come, a memorial from which we can derive inspiration and guidance.

Manuel Roxas during his lifetime realized to the fullest his dreams and destiny as a Filipino. Let us pray that we who carry on after him can fulfill his hopes and maintain his standards.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay’s speech at the unveiling of the Roxas Marker at Clark Air Force Base, Wednesday noon, November 30, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(12), 6104-6105.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the 10th anniversary observance of the Philippine Government Employees
Association**

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the 10th anniversary observance of the Philippine Government Employees Association**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the Philippine Senate, December 9, 1955]

MY FELLOW WORKERS:

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to be with you this afternoon. We are fellow worker and fellow servants of the people. It is only by working together in understanding and harmony that we can serve our country faithfully and efficiently.

We are all links of the same chain. Just as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, so is the Government only as efficient in the service of the country as its most inefficient employee. In my inaugural address two years ago, I stated that I and the men and women who would work with me belonged to the people. I made that pledge on behalf of all of us, and I thank you for helping me to honor it with honesty and dignity. I now ask you once more, however high or humble your position may be, to continue giving your utmost to the service of the Government so that we may truly keep faith with our people.

You should, if possible, give even more of yourselves to the service of the people because, in a practical way, you are more indispensable to the Government than many of us. Those who are elected to public office or are appointed on political considerations come and go, depending on the pleasure of the people and the result of the elections. But you who constitute the vast army of public servants known as the civil service personnel have a permanent tenure. It is you who, for practical purposes, give continuity and stability to Government business. You are the grass-roots basis of the success or failure of our Government.

I am gratified to note on this occasion that, since the war, there have been effected substantial improvements in the pay and retirement privileges of Government servants. Even now, the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission is seriously studying additional ways of further improving the earnings and the security of Government workers. We hope, that, within our financial means, we shall eventually be able to effect at least the Commission's most important recommendations.

I am deeply impressed and delighted by your practice of selecting outstanding public servants to honor with your annual awards. By honoring those men and women in the public service who have been outstanding examples of honesty, efficiency, dedication, and loyalty, you help create a state of mind among public servants that is wholesome and beneficial to our Government and to our country. Such a sentiment among Government workers themselves, supplemented by public opinion and the deterrent influence of our penal laws, is our surest means to good Government.

I thank you for your kind invitation and hospitable welcome, for your counting me among yourselves as a fellow public servant, and for giving me the opportunity to have this heart-to-heart talk with you on our common and mutual problems. Although it is a little early, may I take this happy occasion to wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at the 10th anniversary observance of the Philippine Government Employees Association at the Session Hall of the Philippine Senate on December 9, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(12), 6106-6107.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Ft. McKinley trainees graduation ceremonies

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Ft. McKinley trainees graduation ceremonies**

[Delivered on December 19, 1955]

I am happy and proud to witness the closing phase of your military training today. As trainees drafted from civilian life to fulfill a democratic obligation to the state, you have indeed done your job well. With you as the spearhead of our scheme of national defense, we not only gain confidence in our security but also the reassurance that the manpower and willpower of that defense rests securely in the hands of the citizenry. In our pattern of popular democracy, this is as it should be. By willingly accepting the obligation to serve the colors, you have added fresh vigor to our concept of freedom and you have contributed substantially to the peace and safety of our republic at a time of great uncertainty in this part of the world.

It was an inspiring sight to watch your regimental field exercises under simulated combat conditions. Knowing that during your months of training you had to cope with many limitations because of our need to economize, it was imperative to note that your aggressiveness and high morale more than compensated for those limitations. This fact is encouraging because, during the last war, at Bataan and in many a resistance group, survival depended upon the ability to improvise.

But as I watched you demonstrate the results of training, discipline, and team-work on these mock fields of battle, I had a happier vision. I saw these fields and others like them in the Visayas and Mindanao as the rich and beautiful heritage of our native land, as the source of the abundance we are trying to achieve for each and every one of our citizens. And I saw you returning to those lands with a new outlook.

Many of the arts of war can be equally effective as arts of peace. From this experience you will return to civilian life and your homes with a new understanding of what can be accomplished through training, through organization, team-work, and discipline. You can apply these lessons to the war we are fighting on our second front, the war we fight daily and hourly in every corner of our land, the war against poverty and ignorance. You, members of our citizens army, can assure us of victory on both fronts.

In this war on two fronts, it is heartening to know that we do not fight alone. At our side on both fronts we find our traditional American friends and allies. Officers and men of the United States Military Assistance group have worked with us and have helped us materially in this task of building up the major services of our armed forces. Other agencies of the United States Government are aligned with us on the social and economic front. These friends and allies do not ask us to express gratitude for their help. They are content when we show that we have made the best possible use of their assistance, when we demonstrate that continued and expanded assistance is effectively employed in strengthening our nation as a firm anchor in the lifeline of the free world.

I ask you to give thought to these things when you return to your homes and communities. I call upon you to share the experience you have gained from these months of hard but rewarding work with your fellow countrymen. Show your neighbors that honest toil and a strong will can liberate them from the captivity of ignorance and property. Show them that your six months of trainee instruction served only as a beginning, not as the end, of your service to the country. Let them learn from you that service in the cause of freedom must be a continuous and sustained effort, but that such service carries its own rich reward. The discipline you learned in the ranks of the Army might well

become the essence of national discipline, the discipline of hard, honest toil for the prosperity and dignity of each individual Filipino.

The division flag which I have just entrusted to your hands has a deep and inspiring symbolism which you would do well to carry always in your heart. The red stands for the warm blood of our heroes who gave their lives for things dearer than life itself; its white is the salt of toil and the tears of martyrs; in its blue is the tint of the skies and the seas of your beautiful country. Guard it at all times, and guard it well, that it may never be trampled by tyrants or aggressors.

Officers and men of the Spearhead division, I salute you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's speech at Ft. McKinley trainees graduation ceremonies delivered Monday morning, December 19, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(12), 6107-6108.

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the National Press Club building**

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL PRESS CLUB,
FELLOW GUESTS,
MY FRIENDS:

I am of course aware that the press can perform its mission well only in an atmosphere of freedom. I wish to reiterate that it is a basic policy of this administration to promote and enhance the freedom of the press. You can

count on its support in any endeavor to correct any situation which endangers that freedom. I am happy to renew this pledge not only on this auspicious occasion for the Philippine press but on this day commemorating the great sacrifice of one who loved freedom more dearly than life itself.

Thank you, and I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Speech of President Magsaysay at the inauguration of the National Press Club building. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(1), 87-89.

**Speech of President Magsaysay before the First Southeast Asia-Western Pacific Regional Meeting of the
International Medical Women's Association Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the First Southeast Asia-Western Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Medical Women's
Association**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, January 28, 1956]

EXCELLENCIES, MY FRIENDS:

I AM happy to welcome you to the first Southeast Asia-Western Pacific regional meeting of the International Medical Women's Association.

I salute the women doctors, surgeons, physicians, and general practitioners of the world, and the International Medical Women's Association, for having made this conference possible. The inception and organization of the association is itself a milestone in medical history; it is a tacit recognition of the equal partnership of women with men in the profession of medicine, an eloquent evidence of the tremendous progress that has been achieved in the march towards health, self-help, happiness, tolerance, and enlightenment.

I greet Dr. Ada Chree Reid, past president of the International Medical Women's Association, and Dr. Elise L'Esperance, founder of the famous Strang Clinics for Cancer Detection in the United States—certainly two of the most distinguished women medical practitioners in the world today.

It is significant that the first Southeast Asia-Western Pacific regional meeting of the International Medical Women's Association should be held here, with the Philippine Medical Women's Association as host organization. This honor is a recognition of the ability of our medical women's association in particular and of the women doctors in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific area in general. We are grateful for it.

I understand that the principal subject of your discussions will be maternal and child health. In view of the revitalized health program that the Government has launched for our people, especially for those in the rural areas, I can not think of a subject more vital and more timely. For after all, the development of our country—and, I might add, of this part of the world—depends in a large measure on the health of its citizens. It is common knowledge that the nation's health is conditioned by the health of its mothers and children. It is therefore gratifying to note that the subject of maternal and child health will be taken up during your important conference.

What you will discuss here will profoundly affect the health, not only of Filipinos and the peoples of Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific area, but of all mankind. I earnestly wish your conference success. And may I add the wish that all of you will enjoy the hospitality of our country and people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech before the First Southeast Asia-Western Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Medical Women's Association, delivered Saturday night, January 28, 1956, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 607.

**Speech of President Magsaysay launching the 1956 Red Cross Fund Campaign Speech
of**

**His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Launching the 1956 Red Cross Fund Campaign**

[Released on February 14, 1956]

MY FRIENDS AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I HAVE noted with pride and satisfaction the significant contribution which the Philippine National Red Cross makes to the task of nation-building in which we are all engaged.

The Red Cross is dedicated to the mitigation of suffering in all its forms. Whenever a calamity strikes, the Red Cross is there to give its helping hand. And after it has ministered to the needs of the distressed, we feel strong again to carry on our tasks.

Today, we declare open the annual fund campaign of this humane organization, so that it may have the means with which to fulfill its many obligations to our people.

The Red Cross is the instrumentality through which we all can give some help to our fellowmen who need it most. Through the Red Cross we can lighten the load of a typhoon sufferer, brighten the hours of a soldier in a hospital, or help tide over a patient through a crisis when life itself may hang in the balance. In helping these needy countrymen of ours, we make our own lives more meaningful. I trust that the Filipino people will rally behind the banners of the Red Cross.

I call upon all citizens and residents of this country, regardless of nationality or creed, to support this year's Red Cross fund campaign. I ask them to give generously of their means, their time, and their efforts in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Red Cross. Finally, I urge all national, provincial, city, and municipal officials and school authorities to extend every support and cooperation to this campaign, and to take active leadership towards its success in their respective communities.

I now declare open the 1956 Red Cross Fund Campaign.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay launching the 1956 Red Cross Fund Campaign. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 608-609.

Address of President Magsaysay before the delegates to the National Secondary Schools Press Conference

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the delegates to the National Secondary Schools Press Conference**

[Delivered at the Auditorium of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines on Padre Faura, February 17, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

IT GIVES me great pleasure to be here with you today. Despite a heavy schedule, I did not hesitate to accept the invitation to speak before this gathering when I learned that you are the ones who shape, mould, and reflect the opinions and the thinking of our tens of thousands of students in the public high schools of our country. I felt I should not miss this opportunity because there is something of great importance to our country which I wish to discuss with you today.

You come from all over the Philippines—from the different towns and barrios and cities of our country. I am sure that as early as today, all of you have begun to think of what you would want to do after high school—of what course you will take in college and what career you will pursue. I am sure that the thousands of students who read and follow what you write are thinking of the same thing.

One of the most tragic weaknesses of our educational system is that it encourages our students to think only in terms of white-collar careers and white-collar jobs. Somehow our students soon begin to believe that the only decent honorable, and dignified professions, to take are those which will tie them down to some desk in some air-conditioned office in Manila. Thus, after graduating from high school, they flock to Manila in search of a diploma in Law or in Commerce, disdaining any other course which would require them to work with their hands and that they believe would minimize their chances of finding employment in Manila.

We have got to correct this tragic weakness in our educational system. This tendency, in the first place, does not help in any way at all in the solution of our unemployment problem. Our students keep pursuing those careers which in many places, especially in Manila, are already overcrowded. The result is that they do not get a chance to work in their chosen professions, and succeed only in adding their names to the roles of the unemployed.

In the second place, this trend results in draining our towns and rural areas of manpower and trained technicians which they badly need, because the delusion is fostered that it is only the big cities which provide opportunities for comfortable living, advancement, and prestige. Thus, our graduates make a frantic rush for the cities immediately after receiving their diplomas, only to find disillusionment and defeat.

This trend, finally, does not respond to the peculiar needs and challenges of our times and of this stage in our country's development. This is the atomic age, and if we are to survive and succeed as a nation, we must keep pace with the wonders and miracles that are being wrought daily in the areas of science and technology.

These were the reasons which prompted me, in my recent state-of-the-nation message to Congress, to set down as one of our major guideposts the "adoption of educational reforms geared to the requirements of scientific and economic progress."

"If we are to participate fully in the blessings of science," I said then, "we must recast our educational system to train more engineers and scientists. We must revitalize our educational system with emphasis on general scientific, and vocational education."

The government, I assure you, will do everything possible to comply with this policy guidepost. It is not enough however, that the government institute the necessary reforms. It is far more important that the reforms be understood, appreciated, and accepted by our school-going population. There exists in this country freedom to choose one's career and profession, and for as long as our students refuse to stake their future on technology and science for so long will we lack the skills and the talents that will lead us to the incredible progress that is within our grasp in this day and age.

This, my friends, is where you come in. As editors and staff-writers of your respective school papers, I know that you wield tremendous influence among your fellow-students. I know that you exercise leadership in your respective schools. I urge you to begin laying emphasis, through your school papers and in your other writings, on the opportunities that await students in the fields of science and technology. I urge you to begin preaching the gospel of vocational education, scientific education, technological education. I urge you to re-channel the ambitions of our students from white-collar careers and professions towards the engineering professions, agriculture, medicine, and allied pursuits.

This will be good not only for our country but for the students themselves. They must begin to keep away from the over-crowded professions and train their sights on those careers where the opportunities not only for service and usefulness to country but also for personal self-interest are greatest. As our country grows and our economy expands, as our industries are built up and our trade increases, there will be more and more need for scientists and technologists, and the rewards in these fields will keep growing. You can thus approach the mission I entrust to you today, not only on solid patriotic grounds, but on the basis of the enlightened self-interest of the students themselves.

This is the message and the mission I ask you to carry back with you to your respective provinces, and I hope you will respond to my challenge. In the meantime, I am happy to greet you on the occasion of your annual press conference and to wish that you will have a most fruitful and successful gathering.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's address delivered before the delegates to the National Secondary Schools Press Conference at the Auditorium of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines on Padre Faura, February 17, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 609-611.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Business Writers Association dinner

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Business Writers Association dinner**

[Delivered on February 20, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM grateful to the Business Writers' Association of the Philippines for the opportunity personally to congratulate the outstanding firms and businessmen of the year 1955. The awards given to them are an appropriate recognition of the vital role of business leadership in the development of our country.

As correspondents and writers on business affairs, you are keenly interested in the economic welfare of our people and in the government's plans for providing the climate and incentives which will encourage private industry to move forward more confidently under its own initiative. I propose therefore, to discuss the fiscal policy and other tools available to the Government for achieving economic progress and also to outline the indispensable role of private enterprise in this common effort.

We stand on the threshold of a great era of social and economic advancement here in the Philippines. We have the human and natural resources, the basic plans, the realistic goals, and the will to achieve the level of prosperity and happiness which rightfully belongs to our people. We need only sharpen the precise action measures and perfect the tools of implementation.

We have had many economic plans and programs for national development since liberation. But seldom were these plans translated into practical financial terms and backed by well-defined fiscal policies to assure their faithful and effective execution.

Now, for the first time, we have joined our broad plans for social and economic growth with the specific measures required for their financial and administrative realization. I refer to the 1957 Fiscal Plan embodied in my recent Budget Message to Congress. The nation's taxing, borrowing, and spending powers have been deliberately employed in the Plan as instruments of economic policy. The Plan presents to the Congress and the public a candid, comprehensive appraisal of our resources and the realistic financial measures to stimulate social and economic development.

The P640 million which we were able to extract from all financial resources for allocation to economic development in 1957 gives me great satisfaction. This sum comprises almost one half of the total amounts available for expenditure next year, and will greatly strengthen our attack on the problems of unemployment and low per capita income. The wise expenditure of these funds for productive purposes will spearhead the assistance which the Government gives to the private sector of the economy, emboldening it to risk more capital, use more of our idle resources, and employ more of the labor supply.

The economic bases of the Plan and the program priorities followed in its formulation are in consonance with the Five-Year Economic Program which I endorsed in my address before the Far Eastern University in 1954. This blueprint for the direction of the nation's industrial and agricultural growth is still sound in perspective.

This is by no means to imply that our economic program will not be changed to conform to new circumstances. Indeed, I have directed the National Economic Council to update adjust, and perfect our basic plans and to devise more specific measures designed to increase industrial and agricultural production. But the fundamental objectives of our economic development effort need no revision and bear re-statement at this point.

These fundamental objectives are: to provide a progressively increasing number of jobs, to expand and diversify production, to minimize our dependence on imports to bring about a more equitable distribution of income, and to raise the living standards of our people.

Our economic and fiscal policies, while bold and forward-looking, are tempered with prudence to assure sound and steady progress toward our goals. We cannot spend our way to prosperity through unlimited public borrowing. Our economy demands much more skillful planning and allocation of resources and a more judicious use of the national credit. It is for this reason that I have stressed the importance of essential safeguards to our public borrowing policy.

In addition to fiscal policy as a prime instrument of economic development, the Government has a second vital tool in the form of exchange control. Through this device we are able to marshal our foreign exchange earnings and to channel these resources to investment uses which will provide the most beneficial returns.

While our ultimate objective is elimination of exchange control, the plain fact is that today and for some time to come we must maintain an effective control system. Not until domestic production has been substantially increased can these controls be safely relaxed.

It would be folly to allow the country's hard-earned foreign exchange to be dissipated on luxury and other nonessential goods which provide neither general nor lasting advantage. Furthermore, there is no reason why scarce foreign exchange should be used to pay for more imported commodities when our domestic producers have demonstrated their ability to produce like or similar commodities at comparable prices.

Our basic foreign exchange control policy provides that increasing amounts of our dollar resources be devoted to imports of machinery and equipment needed to establish new productive facilities which will make greater use of local raw materials.

A third essential tool which is available to the Government in stimulating development relates to monetary and credit policy." I want it clearly understood that my position in favor of firmly maintaining the value of the peso is not just a matter of theory. It is a matter of stern, practical responsibility. There are many technical reasons for supporting the value of our currency, but to me the most compelling reason is the welfare of the great majority of our people, the wage earners. Any reduction in the value of the peso would be a cruel and disastrous blow to the very people who can least stand it, to fixed income groups like our government employees, and to low wage-earners who could not hope for speedy adjustments to save them from hunger and privation. I will continue to resist the imposition on them of such sacrifice by every means within my power.

Our banking and financing facilities have come to be shaped largely to meet the short-term credit needs of farmers and traders. The long-term credit needed by many entrepreneurs who could provide additional jobs through investment in new lines of production is not available to the extent needed, even though some improvement has been made in recent years.

It is therefore obvious that the financial structure of the banking community needs to be more flexible to make credit available in larger amounts, on a more selective basis, and on more favorable terms to those wishing to undertake productive enterprises. With the additional funds now being made available to the government's financial institutions, and with the adoption of selective credit priorities, the extension of adequate credit for productive processes will be greatly facilitated in the future.

But the Government alone cannot produce economic growth—its indispensable partner is private enterprise. The essential role of the Government in this common undertaking is to take the leadership in pointing the direction of economic progress and to help create the environment which will encourage private investment in productive fields.

Our Government is providing the social overhead capital in the form of education, health, and social welfare services. It is constructing the highways, power, irrigation, communication, and other facilities which are in direct support of the productive process.

Under my Administration we are also encouraging business by using the tools of government I have already described: a sound fiscal policy, including a tax program which offers incentives to business; a tariff policy which gives protection to young industries; exchange control which conserves the dollars needed for productive industry; and credit resources which provide businessmen with adequate financing. By weaving together these various tools into a pattern favorable to private initiative, we are ensuring that atmosphere which inspires business enterprise to advance to new productive frontiers. In a free enterprise economy, government should do no more and private business must be expected to do no less.

I would like to stress that this government will not prescribe for private industry the rigid laws of economic control which characterize the practice of certain other countries. We shall, within the board limitations of the public interest, encourage the development of private industry in accordance with the dictates of feasibility and profitability as determined by the individual businessman.

The future calls for intensified investment on the part of our own possessors of capital wealth. With our rich natural resources and large consumer's market, this represents good business, but equally I should like to base my appeal to our own citizens for an increased level of investment on patriotic grounds. Foreign capital is likewise welcome and can be assured of fair treatment.

In conclusion, let me emphasize that our economy cannot remain static. We must forge ahead fearlessly and with a venturesome spirit. At the same time we must be ever vigilant against economic dislocations which would negate our gains. We must continue to draw upon the capacity and ingenuity of our people in this all-embracing task of attaining a resilient and viable economy. The Government will continue to do its part. I urge you to do yours.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech at the Business Writers Association dinner, February 20, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 611-615.

**Funeral Oration of President Magsaysay at the Necrological Services for Ex-President Quirino Funeral
Oration
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Necrological Services for Ex-President Quirino**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, March 5, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

FOR the third time in our short history of independence, it is the painful task of the incumbent of our office, to speak at the funeral of one who was an occupant before him.

What can we offer to comfort his loved ones that others can not better express?

His biographers will best tell of his life, a half century of service to his people. Historians will best recount his works and his achievements, and assign them their proper place in the hall of honor of our nation's history. His coworkers, his friends, and his former rivals will, by their grief, best bear testimony to the quality of his person. And his people, by their deep and general mourning, will best quicken the realization that he was a man who worked hard for our independence, and who spent his last energies pursuing plans with which he hoped to make that independence strong.

But because we now sit where he sat, and thus are able to appreciate, perhaps more closely than others, the true value of his life's labors, we might offer, if not greater comfort to his beloved family and friends, at least a humble suggestion to all who would seek to weigh in their minds the real worth of Elpidio Quirino.

We ask that he be judged by what he did for his country and by what he wanted further to do, but was prevented from doing by circumstances and forces outside of his own body and spirit.

If he were thus judged, then his people could have only one unanimous judgment of him: that Elpidio Quirino loved his countrymen and did his best to serve them well.

For the things that he accomplished, let us remember him and be thankful to him.

For those things that he wanted to do but could not finish, let us also remember him, but let us further resolve to seek their final accomplishment in his memory.

Elpidio Quirino wanted a Philippines, happy and strong. Not all agreed with his plans to achieve this end. Not all agreed with their implementation. But all are agreed that where he succeeded, it was due to his own passion to do something for his country and that where he fell short of his objective, it was not due to a lack of that passion in himself.

Let us all, who now bid him farewell, pray to the God who now bids him welcome, to give us the strength and the wisdom with which to keep lasting and peaceful, the reality of freedom for which he lived and died.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's funeral oration at the necrological services for ex-President Quirino, Monday morning, March 5, 1956, at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(3), 1249-1250.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the launching of the First National Foreign Trade Convention

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the launching of the First National Foreign Trade Convention

[Delivered at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Building, March 11, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM glad to join the chambers of commerce and trade organizations in launching the First National Foreign Trade Convention and in observing Philippine Trade Week. This event should help to focus the attention of our people on the important place of foreign trade in our national economy.

The most pressing economic problems confronting us today are linked with our foreign trade. The increase of both our export and import potential is an absolute prerequisite of our progressive and accelerated economic development.

We have been too long dependent upon the export of a few traditional products consigned to a limited market abroad. As a result our economic progress has been greatly conditioned by changes in world trade terms and patterns which are not entirely within our control. In many respects we have not been the masters of our own economic destiny in the past.

The remedy is clear:

- (1) We must diversify production to be less dependent on world demand and less vulnerable to world price fluctuations for a limited number of export commodities.
- (2) We must attain a greater degree of economic self-sufficiency by promoting domestic industries using local raw materials, thereby minimizing our import needs.
- (3) We must greatly expand the markets for our exports abroad.

First, let us discuss the problem of production for export and the expansion of markets abroad. Let me say at the outset that the unfortunate truth with respect to some of our traditional export industries is that the elastic markets and easy profits of the bygone colonial era is a thing of the past. The claim that increased production and, therefore increased prosperity, would result from alleged incentives involving devaluation or other schemes for diluting the currency is illusory to say the least. For many of these traditional crops the problem is not one of increasing production but of saturated markets. We are simply confronted with an inelastic demand for many of these exports—a condition which we must face realistically.

The government recognizes the importance of expanding and strengthening our export trade for these traditional products in the light of narrowing markets and deteriorating terms of trade. It will be sympathetic in doing what it can to meet the challenge of changed economic conditions. But the producers themselves must soberly appraise this situation and take a long and realistic look to the future planning now the course which will assure both themselves and the country a sustained and stable growth.

However, with respect to most of our crops and commodities, particularly those derived from our forestry and mineral resources, including certain agricultural output, there is no artificial limit on our export potential. Here we are limited only by our own ingenuity and drive in producing more exports and selling them abroad for good profit.

In the past we have neglected to work actively and aggressively for foreign markets. We have tended to let our products move on their own momentum in the old channels of trade to supply normal demands. Systematic and active promotion efforts are required in the aggressive competitive conditions of today.

Our aim should be, not only to increase the volume of our old export products, but also to develop new lines that we can sell to new as well as old world markets. This means salesmanship of the highest order requiring the experience, the vision, and the resourcefulness of our producers and exporters. We must utilize the best modern technology can devise in improving our products so that they may excel in world markets. We must also improve the pattern of our exports, which now consists largely of raw materials categories, by producing more manufactured or semi-fabricated products. The government will do its parts in this effort, but results must come mainly from your endeavors as individual manufacturers and traders.

I urge you to launch with this first National Foreign Trade Convention a new era of Philippine foreign trade characterized by a vigorous and systematic drive for new exports markets.

Let us now turn the problem of our imports. We cannot hope to diversify our production and industrialize our economy without providing an increased amount of foreign exchange with which to purchase essential producers goods from abroad for our economic development. In brief, to achieve our goal of greater self-sufficiency for home consumption and to minimize our present dependence on imports, we must purchase abroad the machinery, equipment, and materials which will permit us to activate new industries. In this process our foreign exchange system is of vital importance.

As our industrialization efforts become successful in the next few years and as our economy develops sufficiently to supply the home markets, we will become less and less dependent on this type of control as an artificial method of achieving our goals. But at the present time the judicious and controlled use of our foreign exchange is essential in order to give us access abroad to producers goods for major economic development projects. Only when a natural balance of imports and exports is reached can we abandon our present system, perhaps coming to rely then on tariff measures for controls still needed.

Therefore, I should like to reaffirm my policy on this matter in these terms: We will strengthen our machinery for foreign exchange control and tighten the policies and priorities governing import licenses in order that we can marshal our foreign exchange earnings and allocate them to the maximum advantage of the total economy. As in the case of planning the expenditures of our peso through a fiscal budget, we must begin to allocate our foreign exchange according to a definite foreign exchange budget. We will take steps to close the loopholes and arrest the leakages which permit dissipation of scarce foreign exchange for non-essential consumer imports, or which permit the illegal accumulation of foreign exchange abroad. Our foreign exchange control will be employed to protect domestic markets for domestic producers and to make available the maximum amount of our scarce foreign exchange to provide the tools of economic development.

The measures and policies I have discussed are all concerned with bringing about an increased number of productive undertakings. Once those undertakings are established, however, there continues to be the problem of stimulating and protecting their growth. Each different category of producer will have different experiences and different problems. Some will find competitive conditions already in their favor; others will perhaps require some protection, at least in the early stages of their development.

Even though the primary objective of our tariffs is to derive government revenue, many of our producers will find these tariffs of considerable protective benefit. However, we must not think of high tariff walls as an easy and flexible means of affording protection to producers. To do so would ignore the interests of consumers. While it is desirable to encourage domestic production, this must be kept in proper balance with the desirability of maintaining reasonable price and quality to which the consumer is entitled.

In a free enterprise economy, as I have commented in other statements, the role of government is to point the direction of economic progress, to provide services which will facilitate economic growth, and to create the environment in which private business can confidently move forward under its own momentum. As a concrete

manifestation of the intent of this Administration to help business strengthen its production for export and find new market outlets, I have recently submitted to the Congress a Reorganization Plan for the establishment of a new Bureau of Foreign Trade in the Department of Commerce and Industry.

The principal function of this new Bureau is to give dynamic leadership to the promotion and stimulation of our foreign trade. Its main efforts will be directed to fostering the diversification of export products and the aggressive searching out of new markets. By working for the standardization and improvement of our export products, we should be able to improve their competitive position in the world markets.

In conclusion, I wish to invite your sustained interest and participation in the solution of the difficult problems which face us, as we try to bring our international trade into a natural and more healthy balance. I am convinced that our current policies are fundamentally sound and that we are on the road which will bring prosperity for all. But conditions do not remain static and, therefore, we must be flexible and ready to keep pace with them. And so, do not hesitate at any time to give me the benefit of your counsel. I will await with interest the deliberations and recommendations emanating from your convention.

Whatever policies we adopt for the future, I will insist that the interests of all elements of the community are given just and fair consideration. The principle that guides us is the greatest good for the greatest number. The criteria we impose seek to assure that essential economic development will take place as rapidly as possible with both the sacrifices demanded and the benefits bestowed justly and equitably distributed.

The times and the demands upon us call for a high measure of national discipline and dedication. This being a democracy, these qualities must be self-imposed. I have faith in the capacity of our people to follow this path, and I ask you, gentlemen who represent a key element of our expanding economy, to help by setting the pace and the example.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech at the launching of the First National Foreign Trade Convention, at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Building, Sunday afternoon, March 11, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(3), 1250-1253.

Commencement Address of President Magsaysay at the Adamson University

Commencement Address of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the Adamson University

[Delivered on March 24, 1956]

AS you know, I have attended many commencement exercises and have addressed many successful graduates. On each of these occasions I have wished that it were possible to turn back the clock,—to share the youth and vigor of those listening to me, to share their eagerness to meet the challenge of life. On this occasion, that feeling is even stronger. In fact I must confess that it is almost a feeling of envy.

There is very definite and specific reason for seeing in you a particularly stimulating and exciting promise. It is commonplace to say that the future belongs to youth. In this case, however, it happens to be a special kind of future. And you, I feel, are a special kind of youth. Your educational background has carried particularly heavy emphasis upon science and technology. Your minds have been trained to the disciplines and the limitless horizons of the laboratory. And I feel strongly that it is in these workshops of the sciences that there will be found the key not only to the economic but also to the social and political problems of our nation, of Asia, and of the world.

Here at home, we have been experiencing the painful process of change, change from economic and political dependence to independence, change from an almost primitive agrarian economy to the kind of balanced economy we need in a modern, democratic society. How your scientific and technical equipment fits into this phase of our national existence is easy to see. However, there is going on about us an even greater change. There is growing evidence that the world itself is on the threshold of a great technical revolution, a scientific breakthrough which probably will change the economic, social, and political relations of all mankind.

I refer of course, to the fact that we are privileged to see the dawn of the Atomic Age. For some years now we have lived in the shadow of the Atom as a symbol of fear. This terrible new discovery of science harnessed to weapons of destruction has posed the threat that another World War might well see the end of civilization, if not the end of man himself.

A great turning point in this situation came about through the initiative of the United States. When President Eisenhower launched his Atoms-for-Peace program he gave new meaning and new direction to the terrible power of atomic energy. Without delaying or neglecting the development of atomic weapons, which give the free world a margin of safety against aggression, atomic research turned toward the task of serving humanity in its material needs. The entire world was invited to share with America the precious secrets of the atom, provided that this information were used to benefit man instead of destroying him. The world today faces a contest between the two forces of the atom: one, a thing of evil and destruction; the other, a great boon which may finally liberate the human race from material want.

What is the position of our nation in this great contest? I am happy to report to you that our position is exceptionally good. Last week marked an event which was somewhat overshadowed by some of the more pressing problems of our daily life. But it was an event which may well be recorded as the opening of a great new chapter in the history of our race. It was the welcome news brought to me by Secretary Dulles that the Philippines had been chosen as the site for the Asian nuclear research center.

There was great competition among our Asian neighbors for this center, but after a careful weighing of all factors the decision finally was made in our favor. We will furnish the site for this venture, and the United States plans to spend some \$20,000,000 for the establishment of the most modern atomic research facilities in all Asia. Once established, it will be a cooperative Asian venture. Not only our own scientists but those of our neighboring nations will use this great center for the training and research that could bring about within years the tremendous

development of Asian resources and the solution of Asian problems that might otherwise take centuries. Here in the Philippines will be gathered and working some of the greatest scientific minds in the world, all dedicated to the task of bringing about unlimited abundance for the benefit of man.

This tremendous forward step in our progress toward mastery of nuclear science does not find us wholly unprepared. Some time ago we received as a gift from the United States a splendid library of atomic data, occupying more than 250 feet of shelf space. This library brings within our reach the fruits of the billions of dollars of research completed in the great atomic plants of the United States. More recently, we entered into a pact with the United States which shortly will bring to our shores the first atomic reactor in all of Asia. Thus equipped, we shall find ourselves not only able to undertake study and research but actual production of some of the atomic tools which promise to open the way to a better life.

You who feel at home in scientific laboratories need no prompting from me to see and appreciate the exciting promise of our nation undertaking the great adventure of the atom. But it is difficult for the non-scientific mind to grasp the magnitude of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Nuclear physics already has reached the stage of practical usefulness in medicine, for example. Our facilities will be capable of producing the isotopes so useful in tracing the cause of disease. We shall be able to produce some of the radio-active elements which are successfully curing such dread ills as cancer.

In agriculture, the usefulness of nuclear science is no less spectacular. The cause and cure of mysterious diseases which destroy crops are being regularly revealed by atomic research. The selection and application of fertilizer is becoming an exact science. The preservation of food without refrigeration, of particular importance in the tropics, has been achieved by radiation.

Industrial applications of the atom are too numerous for me to mention here, but we do know the importance of power to industrialization. You will have some idea of the potential of atomic energy if you realize that a one-inch cube of uranium fuel delivers as much power as more than a million liters of gasoline, or more than a million kilos of high grade coal.

These, as I have said, are just a few of the illustrations which the average man can grasp and appreciate. These are some of the applications which may make it possible for us to skip the long and difficult process of modernization in catching up more quickly with the technology of the atom. For this reason alone we have reason enough to feel the excitement of great expectations.

But we must not lose sight of the greater drama taking place on a world stage—the contest between destructive war and peaceful abundance. On the side of war and destruction are such forces as greed, lust for power, ignorance, and misunderstanding. On the side of humanity are now arrayed such forces as the Atoms-for-Peace program, the Asian nuclear center, and all the other elements of social, political, and economic cooperation with which the free world hopes to demonstrate that mankind can liberate itself from violence and the law of the jungle. Reduced to its simplest terms, it is a struggle between the destructive and the constructive.

Our place is on the constructive side, and as we gain in strength so does our side become stronger. As we contribute to pushing back the frontiers of material scarcity, war becomes more remote. In short, we are a living part of the free world, and as such we grow or perish, even as world freedom grows or perishes. By the same token, what hurts the cause of freedom, hurts us as well. Fear, distrust, ignorance, and misunderstanding, these are weapons of the enemy. We resist them and reject them if we and the rest of the free world are to enjoy the blessings of the atomic age.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's commencement address at the Adamson University, Saturday afternoon, March 24, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(4), 1904-1907.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Medical Convention

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the Medical Convention

[Delivered at the FEU Auditorium, April, 1956]

PERMIT me, first of all, to join the medical profession today in extending a warm welcome to our distinguished guests from abroad who have come as delegates to the Third Conference of the Asian Confederation of Medical Associations. You have done us great honor in choosing Manila as the site of your convention and I hope that during your stay here you will have enough time, after your official business, to go around and see our country and know our people. I know I voice the sentiments of all Filipinos when I assure you that you will find a warm hospitality wherever you go.

For three consecutive years you have invited me to address your Annual Convention and for three consecutive times I have honored your invitation. The stress of my daily task gives me the urge to see the doctors—thus I am with you today. In your presence I gather added strength and renewed vigor to continue serving our country.

I have been criticized for flying too much, for going to the rural areas too often, and for receiving hundreds of callers every day. I was informed by the old officials in Malacañang that no President had done this before. It is my firm belief that for a doctor to be successful, he must visit his patient, get a good history, and perform a thorough physical examination. Then, he must visit him as often as necessary for follow-up—to see that his orders are faithfully carried out, to note new developments and see if he is responding well to the treatment. This is exactly what I am doing. I do not want to treat my patient by remote control from the swivel chair of my office. I feel uneasy in a swivel chair.

The illness of our country is Economic Anemia. It is brought about by insufficient production of blood and parasitic infestation. The blood count, however, is not alarmingly low. There is no immediate danger of coma. I strongly believe that she will live and get well with your cooperation.

The treatment we are instituting is threefold. (1) measures to increase blood production; (2) parasites that suck the blood; and (3) supportive blood transfusion.

To increase production we are building irrigation systems, improving agricultural methods and opening up virgin lands. We still have plenty of rich lands which can provide for everyone. I will certainly be very happy if we will be self-sufficient at least in rice—our staple food. One of the main problems in the opening of new settlements which concerns your profession, is the eradication of malaria. If you can only eradicate this disease as you have successfully eradicated cholera and smallpox, you will be doing a great service to our country. I can see the conversion of our virgin lands into productive farms, run and owned by happy and prosperous Filipino farmers. We need your help now, just as the help of the doctors were needed in the eradication of yellow fever for the successful completion of Panama Canal.

We have increased the dose of medicine for the eradication of the parasites of graft and corruption, dollar and gold smuggling, tax evasion, excessive importation of luxury items, and unnecessary travel abroad. We have limited the grant of dollars allocation for medical treatment abroad to meritorious cases. Only those cases which can not be treated locally for want of facilities and skill, and those which have been sufficiently treated by local specialists without improvement are allowed to go abroad. We no longer give dollar allocation for mere physical check-up abroad. That can be done here. Experience has shown that they return with flashy Cadillacs after the check-up. We have a sufficient number of specialists in our country today. When the plan of making Manila as an Atomic Research Center is realized, there will be less reason to go abroad for medical treatment. It is already time that we

should teach our patients to spend their money in our country so that you may benefit from them. I enjoin you to cooperate in conserving our dollars by recommending only meritorious cases for medical treatment abroad.

It is my firm belief that our country still needs supportive blood transfusion. She is not yet sufficiently strong and still complains of dizziness at times. When the blood production is already sufficient, then we can stop the transfusion. We are fortunate to have a donor whose blood type is compatible with ours. We have a friend whose way of life is compatible with ours. At times we note allergic reactions but this can be remedied by diplomatic parley. This is a thousand times better than getting a donor with incompatible blood. The best way of course, is to make our patient strong by increasing blood production so that we would not need the transfusion any more.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have given to you my diagnosis and prognosis of the illness of our country. I have narrated to you our mode of treatment. With your cooperation we can make her strong. We cannot afford to let her die. We have only one country to love and cherish—the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech at the Medical Convention, FEU Auditorium. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(4), 1907-1909.

Speech of President Magsaysay on Labor Day

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On Labor Day

[Delivered on May 1, 1956]

ON this day dedicated to the working men and women of our nation, it is a pleasure to greet you and congratulate you on your accomplishments and progress during the past year. In these greetings and congratulations I am sure that I speak for all our fellow countrymen, for the nation is only as strong and happy as those who work to give it strength and substance.

Labor during the past year has made great progress, greater indeed than in any similar period of our history. I am proud that this Administration has taken part in, and contributed to, that progress.

I grew up as a worker and I know the problems of the humblest workingman. It seems to me I can say honestly that I have brought to the administration of government the perspective of the worker. I ran for election two and a half years ago on a platform for the welfare of the common man. On this Labor Day, I wish to recommit myself and my Administration to that goal.

Under this Administration we have seen a tremendous expansion in the field of labor organization, and we have seen the healthy development within those organizations of the process of democratic and effective collective bargaining. Thanks to this democratic instrument of labor management relations, many of our workers now enjoy benefits which, until very recently, were known only in the most advanced industrial countries. In practically every recent labor-management contract such benefits as paid vacations, paid sick leave and maternity leave, job security, and substantial increases well above the minimum wage have become commonplace.

While the major credit for this accomplishment goes to labor itself, your government, by legislation and by the good offices of its various departments, has seized upon every opportunity to advance your cause.

In addition to direct assistance to the labor movement as such, this Administration has worked to advance and protect your well-being at other levels of national activity. We recognized that it was not enough to help you secure more pesos for your day's work, but that it was also important to assure that the purchasing power of those pesos be kept as high as possible. For this reason the Administration has held firmly to a monetary policy, which guarantees that your income will continue to have increasing value in terms of your needs as consumers.

Another way in which we have indirectly served the cause of labor is by encouraging the increase of productive investment and by stimulating the establishment of new industrial enterprises. By creating these additional job opportunities we create a higher market for the services of labor. Only by such constant increase of job opportunities through increased investment can labor's gains be preserved and increased.

I am happy to say that a majority of organized labor recognizes that the expansion of labor's rights imposes an expansion of its responsibilities. By giving fair and honest effort in exchange for fair and honest treatment, labor creates the atmosphere of *confidence* and *security* which is needed to attract foreign and domestic investment, and only with such investment can we hope for a steadily rising standard of living.

Another gratifying evidence of the maturity of our labor movement is its success in keeping to a minimum the influence and infiltration of the communists. However, as you grow in strength, it is wise to remember that the red conspirators will make even greater efforts to capture you. Your vigilance must not be relaxed. None of the communist lies and promises can conceal the fact, that in communist countries themselves the worker is nothing but

a *slave*, and the union is nothing but a *government tool to control him*. Under communism, a union is denied even the elementary right to strike. Its only purpose is to impose speed-up and overtime without pay, under the guise of patriotic contributions.

Looking back over the past year, Filipino labor can see with *pride* and *confidence* that its democratic path is the *right one*. I am sure that for the coming year your leaders are planning wisely, so that your government's program of economic expansion can continue at a faster pace, for with such expansion there is not only the assurance that you will retain your present gains, but the promise of even greater ones.

If the past year was good, the coming year can be even better. Stand firm on your legal rights and your government will support you. Guard well the honest and democratic character of your organizations to assure public recognition of your influence as a stable and constructive force. Deal fairly and generously with the employer who deals fairly and generously with you. Your greatest growth will come about when it is realized that responsible unionism holds the key to industrial peace and prosperity.

As I have said, our nation and its workers need urgently the expansion of our economy. Let us show those who wish to invest in that productive expansion that they may count upon a diligent and responsible labor force. But let it be clear to all: under this Administration there is no room in our land for any enterprise that cannot pay its workers a decent and reasonable wage. Among free Filipinos, slave labor will not be tolerated.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech on Labor Day, May 1, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2496-2498.

Jaycee Speech of President Magsaysay Jaycee Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines

[Delivered at the St. Luis Auditorium, Baguio City, May 3, 1956]

I SALUTE the young men—the young leaders of the Philippines . . . young men with the optimism, the spirit and will, that helped rebuild our nation after a devastating war; young men with foresight, wisdom, and ability that helped launch a new nation among the free nations of the world; young men with understanding, the capacity for growth, and the determination to build an even greater Philippines and help build a better world.

It is amazing that the truly outstanding record of the young men of the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce has been written in little more than eight years. In that short space of time, you have taken the Filipino instinct of brotherhood and neighborly helpfulness, added an organizational concept born in the United States, adopted it to our Asian culture, and built it into a nation-wide organization that has contributed materially to the welfare, wellbeing, and prestige of our people and our country.

The roster of the Philippine Jaycee activities is an impressive one. It includes such a wide range of endeavors as blood banks and scholarships, boxing tournament and art exhibits, trade missions and playgrounds, disaster relief and safety campaigns.

I know from first-hand experience of the Jaycee campaigns to get out the vote and to insure that we have clean and honest elections. I know also of the Jaycee cooperation with other civic organizations and the government in programs designed to benefit our people. I understand that through your annual “Voice of Democracy” contests, you are even developing orators who may offer our politicians competition.

Your interests and enthusiasm have reached beyond the limits of our islands too. Filipinos have been the driving force in the expansion of the Jaycee movement in Asia. You have among you past and present officers of Jaycee Asia and of the world Junior Chamber International.

While others viewed despair, cynicism, and futility the struggling efforts of Free Vietnam to resist the yoke of Communism, you volunteered friendship, understanding, and tangible aid. The results of your “Operation Brotherhood,” have written a new chapter in the great annals of democracy in action. It was largely in tribute to “Operation Brotherhood,” I understand, that a Filipino was named the outstanding Jaycee of the world. I am sure he will be the first to admit that this award is shared by all of you.

Taken individually, some of your endeavors may seem somewhat insignificant, but when taken all together, the impact you have made upon our country and upon all Asia is undeniable. You have taken the tools at hand and organized efforts to improve your communities, to promote civic consciousness and community pride, and to foster good-neighborliness and self-development.

But the most significant contribution of all, I think, is that you, Jaycees, never rest on your record of past achievements. The success of the past, you take as inspiration to do even bigger and better things for our country. Your “Operation Neighborhood” and your plans for joining our rural development effort are but two examples of this spirit.

I salute you, young men, and the Philippines salutes you.

But I did not come here just to praise you for your achievements. I hope that it has already occurred to most of you that one of the reasons I am so interested in the Jaycees is because your spirit and your programs so closely parallel my own hopes and plans for our country.

Asia and the Philippines look to her young men. It is in them that we place our hopes for the future. Many of you already hold responsible positions in business, government, and community life. Your daily activities as Jaycees and as citizens establish the standards and provide the example for your communities.

Regardless of race, political belief, or religious creed, you have demonstrated your willingness and determination to do all you can to improve the well-being of your communities and to promote harmony and mutual understanding. You have agreed on the priority of erecting a free, progressive nation in a free, progressive world.

I submit that such agreement should be the standard for all the Philippines. Regardless of differences in politics or religion we can all be united in working to advance our communities and our nation. If we work together for this common goal, we cannot help but achieve mutual understanding in other things, and with understanding comes harmony and progress.

This is implementation of what I call “positive nationalism.” A few weeks ago I defined “positive nationalism” as a nationalism “which takes the best of our qualities, our virtues, our institutions, regardless of how we acquired them, and develops from them a culture which truly reflects the national goals.”

Implementation of this positive Filipino nationalism requires daily efforts to encourage and promote the very best of our qualities; to demonstrate neighborliness rather than hatred and antagonism; to use our native intelligence to dispel the fogs of emotionalism and lay the dust of misinformation; to exert only our constructive and beneficial influences upon the problems of our society. These efforts can be brought to bear upon every segment of our national life—business and economics, music and the arts, education, farming, our social life in general.

This is not just moralizing. It is practical common sense. Misunderstanding, bickering, hatred—all these impede our national development and progress, foment unrest, retard the promotion of the general welfare. The rest of the world is full of examples of how these noxious influences breed ideas and institutions that are the exact opposite of the democratic freedom which we cherish and must be vigilant to protect.

The positive and affirmative approach to life is common to all peoples and all faiths of the free world—to Christians, Moslems, and Buddhists alike. Only one world ideology is based upon hate: that is Communism.

We must be alert to ways of promoting understanding. We must control destructive emotionalism, we must seek the facts and then apply our cherished principles of justice—our government of laws, not of men. We must be good neighbors, not just here at home, but with the rest of the world. We must especially understand our neighbors in Asia and help them to understand us.

We have the benefit of a strong and courageous people, of a land rich in natural resources, of widespread education and literacy, of a culture rich in fundamental qualities so necessary to promote understanding, and we have the benefit of steadfast friends in the community of nations. Let’s take this wealth and invest it in the future—a future where our horizon is all the world, and where only our own shortsightedness can limit us. Let’s put the breath of life into positive nationalism.

Once again I salute you, young men, and I urge you to return to your home communities and to enlist your vigor and your militancy in a crusade to teach, promote, and demonstrate *positive* nationalism.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Jaycee Speech of President Magsaysay. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2498-2500.

**Message of President Magsaysay to the people of Japan, May 10, 1956 Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the people of Japan**

[Released May 10, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM happy to greet the people of Japan on this happy occasion of the signing of the reparations agreement between your country and mine. This event should open a new era in the relations between our two countries. The reparations agreement has been brought about by the desire of the Japanese Government and people to write finish, so to speak, to the unhappy memories of the past and to start out anew on a relationship of friendship and fruitful association with the Filipino people. While it is impossible materially to repay us for the losses we suffered during the war, I wish to assure you that the Filipino people appreciate the invitation to a new friendship symbolized by your reparations commitment. We appreciate the invitation and we accept it, and we shall strive to keep alive and burning a new spirit of mutual cordiality and understanding between our two peoples. We shall do this together with you, not only for the sake of our two countries, which shall mutually profit from a renewal of political, commercial, and other relations, but also because we wish to contribute to peace and stability in this part of the world.

I bring to you, the people of Japan, the greetings and best wishes of the Filipino people, and I hope you will join us in forging new and lasting bonds of understanding and mutual respect between our two peoples.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines National Court of Honor

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Boy Scouts of the Philippines National Court of Honor**

[Released on May 14, 1956]

FELLOW SCOUTS:

THERE have been various occasions in the past when I had the pleasure to attend some forms of Scouting activity and I consider them among the most memorable in my life. Tonight I was a witness to yet another Scouting activity: Your National Court of Honor. It might be that my promotion from Tenderfoot Scout of Honor to Eagle Scout was too rapid that I can barely grasp the full significance of many of your ceremonies, notably this Court of Honor of yours. It was as solemn as anyone could wish it to be and as pregnant of meaning as anyone would care to read into it. But more than anything else, I deem it as another example of the way a vigorous and far-reaching movement, imbued with high deals and aspirations, is able to fire the imagination of the most diverse kinds of people and to make them devote their time, effort, and even substance just so the youth of the country can live the Scouting way of life.

I cannot imagine that the medals presented today are of any great intrinsic worth. But I see that you prize them very highly. On past occasions, I have seen many of you wearing them and you wore them with pride and satisfaction. In some homes that I have visited, the men of the house hesitated not a moment to show me things they prized most and oftentimes they were awards given to them by our Organization.

Knowing how you prize them, I think I also know why you have learned to appreciate and treasure them. But the personal satisfaction that you derive in doing a good deed for the youth of the country overshadows all else. That is why, despite the distances that you have had to travel to reach Manila, the other important work that you might have had to forego, you had to come and attend our annual Council Meeting.

But I do not think I still have to boost Scouting to you. Many of you have spent the best part of your years in Scouting. Instead, let me make a few suggestions so that we may all see that the good that Scouting can do will permeate and guide accordingly a greater segment of our population.

There is yet so much to be done here in the Philippines for children and the youth: first, by method of prevention; and second, by adequate treatment of those who have fallen afoul of the law. In both these spheres, Scouting can play a big part. There is no need for me to point out what Scouting itself does for youth in the way of prevention of delinquency, by providing healthful interests and recreation, building character, etc., but in any given community only a fraction of boys are served in this way.

Can you who are in Scouting do something for the others?

You can certainly do something about the other boys who do not yet belong to the Scouting Organization. By reason of your association with Scouting you all can take a leading part in all civic activities which further the good of the youth.

For example, is there any kind of coordinating council in your town in which are presented the various youth organizations and on which sit civic-minded individuals? There is need for such a council which would study local needs and problems, suggest remedies, rouse public opinion, and make plans for a better deal for the children in the locality. For it is true that in most of our communities, although the Boy Scouts and other organizations are already at work, there is little understanding of the overall problem and seldom any coordinated plan for the whole youth population, nor is there much knowledge even of just what is happening to children in trouble. If there is none yet in your locality, maybe you should initiate such a council so that your community can be roused to a sense of responsibility in the matter. You can be such a power for good in your communities; so I appeal to you not to be satisfied to restrict your leadership to Scouting alone, but to widen your horizons.

I also wish you would seek out and apply Scouting principles and methods to help in the promotion of a very great need of our time. You know that our Republic is comparatively young. It will be only ten years old next Fourth of July. To this generation and those immediately succeeding, belongs the delicate task of shaping it as a united and strong nation.

So that Scouting may maintain a vital role in the life of our people, I urge that other phases of Scouting be stressed or developed, as the case may be, which will help crystalize in our youth the spirit of positive Filipino nationalism which is very necessary for our survival as an independent nation. In such a case, Scouting will find many valuable allies in many of our age-old institutions and in our civic organizations, and excepting for our schools, Scouting stands to become the most effective agency by which we can evolve such a spirit of dynamic nationalism.

As your honorary President, I am proud of the work you are doing. No other group is contributing more effectively and substantially to nation-building today than the 25,000 Scouters all over the country who are giving so generously of their substance, effort, and time to the Scouting Cause. And so I join President Vargas, Commissioner Hernandez, and the rest of you in congratulating and commending those who received their awards tonight and the many others whose recognition is yet to come for their patriotic work in helping to build for our country a militant and capable citizenry.

May your theme for this annual meeting—"New Horizons for Filipino boys"—open new horizons of service to the Fatherland for us all.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Boy Scouts of the Philippines National Court of Honor. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2501-2503.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the launching of Community Chest Drive

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the launching of Community Chest Drive**

[Released on June 1, 1956]

IN my many visits to the far-flung barrios in our rural areas, I have been a happy witness to countless community welfare programs in action. I have seen school houses and churches, bridges and roads, come up through the voluntary efforts of barrio folks; I have seen wells and irrigation canals jointly built by free labor for the common use of the people; and I have seen barrio volunteers fight hand in hand with government peace guardians against dissidents and disturbers of the peace. I have seen little ones in the care of kind neighbors, and sick ones nurtured by loving friends. The barrio people form the backbone of our nation; the barrio people are our strong allies against the red threat in the distant horizon, for the barrio people have an effective and practical way of solving their economic and social ills and of meeting their needs and those of their fellowmen, by supplementing the help that they receive from the government, instead of relying on it alone.

The Community Chest, similarly, is a community welfare program in action. Without waiting for direct aid from the government, civic minded and highly responsible citizens of Greater Manila, including good friends from abroad, have worked together so that as a result of their efforts, about a million people are provided with better opportunities of growing into normal citizens, given better health, protection, guidance, and education and assisted in spiritual, social, cultural, and recreational activities.

From the practical point, the Community Chest is a response to the people's desire for a united and business-like system of fund-raising; it is a successful experiment to make one campaign in place of multiple appeals.

I am happy to launch this year's Community Chest fund drive, for I fully realize that this afternoon I am launching the united cause of 18 affiliate Red Feather agencies that are rendering invaluable services to the community.

President Evangelista, I wish you another successful year in your administration of the Community Chest.

My good friend, Commissioner Manuel P. Manahan, here is my contribution. With it goes my fond wish that the Community Chest drive this year be another feather on your cap. Good luck, and to all—*Mabuhay!*

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay at the launching of Community Chest Drive. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(6), 3010.

**Rizal Day Speech of President Magsaysay before the Lions Clubs Rizal Day Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Lions Clubs**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, June 19, 1956]

LION CHAIRMAN MARIANING DEL ROSARIO,
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE MANILA BAY AREA LIONS CLUBS,
MY FRIENDS:

PERMIT me to thank the officers and members of the Bay Area Lions Clubs for this privilege of addressing you on this day. You are to be commended for stressing with this celebration the significance of the anniversary of the birthday of Jose Rizal.

Indeed, it is time perhaps that our people should give to the day of his birth the same attention and importance that we give to the day of his death, for there are many things about Rizal that we can learn by reflection on his life which we might miss in reflecting on the tragedy and the glory of his death.

The recent generations of our people have had many occasions in which to die for our country. When those times have come, it has been the heroism of Rizal in the face of death that inspired them in battle or in the face of the executioner.

Today, however, you will perhaps agree with me that we are mainly concerned with living for our country. We are concerned with giving life, a decent life, to the millions of our people. We are concerned with giving life and strength to our national freedom and individual liberties. We are concerned with giving life to our Constitution and to the laws that our own free representatives have enacted for our welfare.

In implementing this concern the question that we ask about Rizal is not so much "how did he die?" as "how did he live?" And this day is a good day in which to seek the answer.

How did Rizal live? Perhaps we should first ask—What did he live for? Rizal lived for his country. How did he live for his country? He lived for it first by understanding the problems of the Philippines of his day. He faced the realities which the forces of his country had created around him. He singled out the enemies of his country's freedom. And then he chose the most effective weapons with which to conquer them. He learned how to wield these weapons. And finally he used them effectively and decisively to defeat the enemy and bring freedom to his people.

What do we not find in Rizal's life? We do not find him fighting the battles of Lapu-Lapu with 16th century swords or haranguing his countrymen with the rough, rustic eloquence of Dagohoy. We find him fighting the enemies of his time with the weapons of his time, with the polished satire of the 19th century, seeking thereby not only to awaken the spirit of his own countrymen but also to stir up the sympathy of the most cultured centers of Europe towards the cause of his country's freedom. Such was the realism of Rizal. Such was the constructive bent of his patriotism. Such was the positive spirit of his nationalism.

Indeed, in every period of a country's history, it is true nationalism that gives its people that necessary energy with which to conquer the problems of their times. It is the realistic, constructive, and the positive nationalism of Rizal which, by facing present problems with present solutions, will propel us in the right direction towards the security, the prosperity, and the happiness of our people.

What are our problems today? They are to permit the enjoyment of the fruits of our freedom by as many of our countrymen as possible, to harness our resources and gather economic strength with which to support that freedom, and to prepare ourselves to defend that freedom against the forces that threaten to destroy it.

We can inspire ourselves to solve these problems by recalling the principles of our dead heroes. But we cannot actually solve them by using obsolete weapons, recalling old hatreds and resurrecting buried enemies. We can, like Rizal, learn from the past without reviving the problems of the past and without shadow boxing with the spirit of the vanquished foe.

It would be wrong, for instance to approach our coming relations with Japan by recalling our hatred of the Japanese militarist even though it was barely ten years ago that we suffered under his yoke. Let us recall that Rizal himself had a high respect for the intrinsic humaneness of the Japanese people.

As with the ten year old hatreds, so must we deal with the older ones. Let us nourish in our hearts a love for our country that looks forward. Let us nurture a love that builds and will not destroy the very things that support our freedom. Rizal said “the glory of saving a country is not for him who has contributed to its ruin Hate never produces anything but monsters; and crime, nothing but criminals Love alone realizes successful works; virtue alone can save Redemption presupposes virtue; sacrifice, love”

My friends, countless problems challenge our solution. They can be solved if we get together inspired with love for our country and for our countrymen and if we approach them with goodwill and without rancor or abuse.

A country can achieve lasting greatness only if that greatness is built on the sound constructive bases of virtue, sacrifice, and love. For countries, like persons, must also be judged by the moral code. Rizal said “If to make my country happy I should have to do evil, I would refuse to do it, because I am sure that what is built on sand must sooner or later fall to the ground.”

If we must build for the future, we must solve the present with the solutions of our time. If we must strengthen our freedom we must use the resources at hand. If we must defend that freedom, we must know who is its real enemy today and prepare to foil him with the weapons of today. If we want to help our country, we must be prepared to sacrifice ourselves. But to sacrifice ourselves we must be possessed of love—love for our God, our country, and our people.

If our devotion to Rizal is sincere and genuine, then we must remember, each and every one of us, that we owe it to ourselves and to our country to seek constantly to discipline ourselves and dedicate our efforts to our country. As Rafael Palma has said, we have a right to believe that there is in each one of us a possible Rizal; and that what he has done, we too could do within our reach and capabilities, if we would only apply to our tasks the same determination, the same resolute action, the same sense of duty that Rizal applied to the most heroic acts of his life.

Let, then, this commemoration of Rizal’s 95th birthday inspire in each of us a firm determination to dedicate ourselves anew with a chastened spirit and renewed vigor to this our beloved country which Rizal, blessing her with his blood, has bequeathed to us, for us to love, to dignify, and to serve.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Rizal Day Speech of President Magsaysay before the Lions Clubs. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(6), 3012-3013.

Speech of President Magsaysay during the Loyalty Day

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
During Loyalty Day**

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, July 3, 1965]

GENERAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL VARGAS,
OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ARMED STAFF,
OF THE PHILIPPINES: FORCES

EVERY year at this time the officers and men of the Armed Forces gather together to renew their pledge of loyalty to the Republic and to their commander-in-chief.

It is always a privilege to accept this renewal of your solemn pledge.

It is particularly a privilege to receive the loyalty of men whose love for their country finds its limits only in death.

There is one word that has no place in this history of our armed forces—compromise. It is so with the Filipino soldier today as it has always been with every Filipino in history who has taken up arms either to gain liberty or to defend it.

There are forces at work in the world today which would like to dilute your loyalty to the cause of freedom and justice with the spirit of compromise. There can only be one result should their campaign succeed—the disaster of war and the possible conquest of free lands by Communist arms. If it is necessary that our people should be warned and protected against this spirit of compromise, it is all the more urgent that you yourselves, who shall be called upon to live up to your pledge of dying for your country if that disaster should come, steel your minds against the false attractions of that campaign.

I am glad to note that the officers and men of our armed forces are conditioned to fight for liberty not only physically but also mentally and spiritually. Those few among our people who might be entertaining in their minds and hearts the seductive ideas of compromise that others would have us accept, should find a strengthening of their faith in the shining example of your uncompromising loyalty.

There is one more quality of the loyalty of the Filipino soldier which should be a source of pride and guidance for our people. It is that your loyalty, given substance by the knowledge of the value and meaning of those liberties and the institutions which you are pledged to defend, moves you to act in their defense forthrightly and without hesitation. Our history of a long but successful struggle for freedom, our experience in substantial self-government even before attaining our complete emancipation, these things have been more than sufficient to give our people a permanent tradition by which we are aware of the concrete meaning and of the responsibilities of nationhood. Today we are faced with problems of external and internal defense, and internal economic reconstruction. It is not the time to fight the battles of the past or revive questions already settled either by the blood of our soldiers or by the successful persuasion of our statesmen. It is the time to face the present, to be ready against the new enemies of our freedom and to approach, with both realism and foresight, the problems of our own time.

All this is why the whole nation should be grateful for the example of your loyalty. In the name of our people, in the name of liberty and justice not only for ourselves but for all mankind, I accept with pride your solemn renewal of fidelity to the cause of freedom.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay during the Loyalty Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(7), 3548-3549.

Speech of President Magsaysay on Independence Day

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On Independence Day

[Delivered at Luneta, July 4, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

TEN years ago today, by the grace of God, we realized a dream for which Filipinos had fought and died for hundred of years. On that day was born the Republic of the Philippines, a sovereign nation of free and independent Filipinos. The road we traveled to reach that goal was long and hard. On that road our fathers and their fathers before them fought and died. During the past half century the end of that hard road came in sight. The marks of our struggle changed from blood and steel to persuasion and principle. Our final victory was won with reason rather than violence.

At the turn of the century, we shook off the grip of one foreign country only to come under the sovereignty of another. Fortunately, the new sovereign was a nation which held and still holds the freedom and dignity of man among its most cherished traditions. Within the framework of this tradition we developed our case for self-determination and independence. Our case prospered. And on July 4, 1946, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and warm friendship, the stars and stripes of America were lowered; and the flag of our Republic proclaimed to the world that we stood at last as a free and sovereign people in the community of nations.

Now, after ten years, let us look back over the road we have traveled. Let us take stock of ourselves. What have we done with that Independence for which we waited so long? Let us look clearly and honestly at the record.

I can tell you how I feel about it. I can tell you that I am proud of my race, that I am proud of my generation, that I am proud of the nation we created in so short a time and in the face of such tremendous odds.

There is no need for me to recall the details of our beginning. Even the younger among us have vivid memories of of the destructive war which still echoed in our ears as our nation was born. That disaster wrecked our plans and our very means of livelihood, destroyed our homes, and left us with only a crushing burden of corruption and immorality-inevitable by-products of war. I recall these painful memories because only against such background can we truly appreciate the feat of nation-building which we have accomplished.

There are those among us who cry out against our social and economic situation, who predict disaster, and who clamor for quick remedies. Let them not blind us to the facts. Let them not minimize the fact that our production levels today are above pre-war levels, as are the living standards of our people. Let them not exploit the discontent of those who are still poor, those whom we have not yet reached with our efforts to improve living conditions. Let them not obscure such advances in social justice as our labor legislation and our tenancy laws, our rural credit and cooperative institutions. By obscuring and decrying they but make our task the harder and postpone its completion. Let them shout and work for more, but let them not deny the accomplishment.

There are some among us who wring their hands over our political system and urge us to experiment with other forms. I am one of those who feel at times that we exaggerate the importance of politics. But let us not ignore the fact that in a period of great world tension and crisis, when other and older nations were gravely endangered and damaged, our system survived its crisis, demonstrating the superiority and stability of our form of democracy in the face of armed attack and sabotage by the Communist conspiracy.

Habit is strong. So long and passionate was our fight for independence and sovereignty that some among us have not been able to adjust themselves to reality and they continue to beat the dead horse. Ignoring the real problems of the present, they now seek to give fresh vigor to an old lament—that our independence is not real or complete. The test of our independence is in whether or not the initiative for guiding our destiny rests within our own powers, in whether or not the acceptance or rejection of a relationship with another nation is ours to decide, subject only to the national interest. As your Chief Executive, I say to you: This initiative we possess and exercise: we will never relinquish it.

Every relationship in which we are today engaged has been and continues to be carefully weighed against one major standard: Does it in the final total contribute positively to the national interest?

What comprises the national interest? Security, first of all. Without security, sovereignty is controlled by, and at the mercy of, the nearest aggressor, making it no sovereignty at all. Next comes the material well-being of our people and our progress in maintaining and expanding that well-being. Those are the tangible, the physical elements of national interest. But no less important, certainly, are those aspects of the national interest which cannot be measured in pesos or in fire-power, such elements as our racial and national code of ethics, morality, and justice; our principles and ideals; our reputation and prestige as a member of the free world community. Determined, for instance, to honor our commitments and conduct ourselves nationally in a manner that does credit to our national dignity.

Tested by these criteria, our Republic has good reason for pride, satisfaction, and confidence. But this is no excuse for relaxing our vigilance or our effort. Our accomplishment was good, but it could have been better. Many old problems remain; new problems arise daily. Our success should serve only to give us confidence and incentive for, greater effort.

As we review our past and look to our future, we are happy to welcome to our festivities Vice-President Richard Nixon of the United States of America. Vice-President Nixon is here to represent during this celebration the country with which we have cooperated so much in the past and with which we will continue to cooperate in the future for the cause of peace and freedom. Our partnership in this cause, based on mutual respect and understanding, is naturally viewed with disfavor by those who do not wish to see peace and freedom secure in this part of the world. It is for this very reason that this partnership must continue. But it is also for this reason that we must so maintain it and so adjust our relations to our mutual requirements that our partnership becomes a model of collective action for liberty rather than a source of doubt among the uncommitted countries or of substance for the propaganda of the enemies of liberty. I am certain that this second visit of Vice-President Nixon, whose own personal interest in Philippine-American understanding is widely known, will contribute immeasurably towards that end.

And now, fellow countrymen, what of our future?

On several occasions in recent months I have urged our people toward greater expression of what I have called *positive nationalism*. Just what do I mean by positive nationalism? Actually, I could just as accurately say *true nationalism*. For example, I see no real patriotic or constructive contribution from those who resurrect buried enemies or revive dead issues, from those who sneer at the worth or validity of our national institutions or culture, from those who try to imprison us behind a wall of suspicion, distrust, and hatred of the outside world, from those who would have us follow a policy of cynical expediency. Honest and fearless criticism should be welcomed as a healthy manifestation of democracy, but we should insist that it be presented soberly, based upon evidence, and accompanied by a constructive alternative.

Positive or true nationalism is that which places the national good above personal interest, bias, or prejudices. It seeks, discloses, and cultivates what is good in the community and the nation, knowing that the stronger growth of what is good will choke out the weeds of what is bad. The true nationalist does not ignore or conceal national shortcomings, but works hard to correct them; he does not advertise them to feed his own vanity.

These are some of the qualities of the true or positive nationalist. You will agree that they coincide with the traditional virtues of our race. I would like to see the day when only those who practice them faithfully are permitted the honor of being called nationalists.

The world in which we enter the second decade of the history of our republic is still a troubled world. Our course continues to be perilous. We may yet lose everything we hold dear should we become careless or relax our effort. But of this I feel sure: If freedom is destined to survive at all upon this earth, I have the fullest faith and confidence that we Filipinos have the wisdom and energy which, with Divine grace and guidance, will keep us securely on our course.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay on Independence Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(7), 3551-3554.

**Speech of President Magsaysay before the Jaycees Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Jaycees**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion, July 8, 1956]

PRESIDENT				ARANETA,
PRESIDENT				MEER,
DISTINGUISHED	OFFICERS	AND	MEMBERS	OF
THE		JUNIOR		CHAMBER,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:				

I AM HAPPY to be once again among my friends—the Jaycees of the Philippines. I feel a great attachment to this group of young Filipinos which perhaps I have, up to now, not sufficiently expressed. I have had the opportunity of expressing publicly my support for your many worthy projects. I have had the privilege of cooperating with you in your program of civic development.

But, although my attachment to your group was strengthened by the fact of our mutual collaboration, my admiration for your principles and for your work was born even before I had the occasion to support your efforts. It began years ago when you were first organized in the City of Manila. I read your principles which commence so aptly with “Faith in God” and speak of service to country and freedom—and I agreed with them completely. And then I saw how, after adopting your principles, you put them into action quickly, efficiently, and effectively. While others spoke of cleaning up the city, you rolled up your sleeves and began to polish up monuments, to tidy up swampy eyesores and even to sweep up garbage. It was such a novel sight, these young professionals and businessmen, casting aside false dignity and pride, and going about calmly practicing what they preached. As you will recall, the event was received with some cynicism, mainly by those whose concern for the welfare of the community of Manila never went beyond the talking stage.

I was then a member of Congress and, although I did not then have the opportunity to express it, I admired the way that the Jaycees, unaffected by this cynicism, went on to do the job of improving the life of the community in the nation’s capital. I felt that you were then displaying the sort of action by which our communities everywhere in our country could be materially improved within the framework of our democracy and spiritually strengthened against ideas that were subversive of that democracy.

Today our policy of vitalizing our liberty by giving its meaning, through concrete action, for the millions that live in our urban and rural communities, is but an official extension of your active concern for the details of community life. Like your program of action, our barrio projects were initially received with cynical comment from those who expected from our administration the usual grandiose designs which never touch the life of the common man. But like you, undaunted by critics, we proceeded to implement our projects.

Your resolute labors towards organized action for the public welfare have, since your first projects, received public recognition time and again. The success of your action is eloquently attested to by the swift spread of the Jaycee ideal and the establishment of your many chapters all over the Islands. I like to think that there is more than a superficial similarity between the general and enthusiastic acclaim for your organization’s activities by our countrymen and the repeated concrete expression of popular acceptance of our program of rural development. Both successes are due to the same realization that the strengthening and the defense of our liberties must first begin with determined action towards the material and spiritual revitalization of the masses of our people.

The parallel paths which your organization and our administration have taken for our country’s welfare have not stopped at our shores. They have gone beyond into the field of international relations. Here again in at least one instance the Jaycees blazed the trail for our own official action. Even before we recognized South Vietnam and

while we were engaged in a bitter and prolonged debate on the academic merits of such recognition, you and your co-workers were already afield in the cities and countrysides of that gallant young neighboring republic, confirming the faith of its people in the ways of democracy and strengthening their will against the Communist aggressor, thus keeping the latter at least one step further beyond our own door.

You began doing this even before your government, by signing the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, was able to align itself with those whose answer to the threat of Communism is not compromise or despair, but, as the Jaycees would have it, confidence, mutual cooperation, and collective action.

All this is why I feel so proud to be counted as a friend of the Jaycees of the Philippines. Our country has profited by you, not only by the direct benefits derived from your civic action but also by the example which you have set for our internal and international policies.

In congratulating the officers who have been inducted tonight, I wish to remind them of this great tradition of the Philippine Jaycees. You are assuming a responsibility no less grave than those of public officials. For you must now assume the leadership of young men whose record of achievements includes that of having, by action and not by words, shown our government and our people the way to happiness, freedom, and peace for our Republic. May God grant you the wisdom with which to discharge such an important and necessary duty. For we shall always need of the spirit, the action, and the example of the Jaycees of the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech before the Jaycees, at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion, Sunday evening, July 8, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(7), 3555-3557.

Speech of President Magsaysay on launching the nationwide celebration of Medicine Week

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On launching the nationwide celebration of Medicine Week**

[Released on September 15, 1956]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

FOR the first time in the history of our country, we are dedicating a week to the medical profession. I have proclaimed the period from September 15 to 21 as Medicine Week, to make our people conscious of their health and of what medical science can do for them today. Our hospitals which suffered during the last war have already been rehabilitated, and many new and modern institutions have been added. In the rural areas, we now have health units extending medical service to the thousands who never before enjoyed the blessings of decent medical care. We cannot let this day pass without expressing our gratitude to the medical profession for the constantly improving health of the nation and the fact that our mortality rate is perhaps the lowest in this part of the world.

With public attention focused on our health and medical science, I hope to get a week's respite from politics. You may have noted that there is no need to proclaim "Politics Weeks". Every week, it seems, is Politics Week in our country. We are politically super-conscious, apparently an over compensation for the long colonial status we had. With the election still one year and two months away, there already is talk about candidates and political strategies. If only the time and energy spent by our people in barber shops and coffee shops on political discussions were channeled into gardening, poultry, or handicraft, our country certainly would gain more by it. We have too little time for nation building, and we spend too much for political campaigns. With the realization our independence, our problem has shifted from politics to economics. We should therefore adjust ourselves to the change and concentrate on the development of our strength and well-beings as a nation, instead of dissipating our energies on political competition which too frequently weakens us by sowing confusion and fear.

It is gratifying to learn from your active President, Dr. Manalo, that today the Philippine Medical Association is starting its nation-wide "Free Medical Assistance For Indigents." In your society the Administration finds a strong ally in the implementation of our rural health program. It is obvious, but worthwhile repeating, that rural health is essential to rural economic development. A healthy and vigorous populace is indispensable, if our backward agriculture is to catch up with modern means of making the most of our rich resources. I am wishing you more power in your inspired movement to bring to the poor people the present-day skill and facilities of the medical profession. May other organizations follow the "community service" battle cry of your society. Treating the poor with the same enthusiasm as you treat the rich, is a concrete example of what I call missionary zeal. This is the type of zeal which our country badly needs today but seldom finds. What we have in abundance is *mercenary* zeal.

However, I predict that in giving concrete expression to the Hippocratic oath, you will reap suitable reward. The efforts of our administration are geared to the economic development of our rural areas to reduce the number of poor and increase the number of a prosperous middle class. I was inspired to greater efforts when I learned that the tobacco farmers of the North are no longer paying their doctors' bills in terms of eggs and bananas. They now pay in cash. Our administration is working to extend that prosperity to the whole length and breadth of our country. But it can't be done overnight. Give us the time and your cooperation.

As masters of the great science of medicine, you represent one of our major assets. Yours should be an outstanding role in the pageant of nationalism, in which the Filipino of today is engaged. You stand out as examples of how quickly and readily the Filipino can master the skills and adapt to his needs the knowledge and experience of other lands and other people. It is my feeling that you are now ready to make positive contribution to our national spirit. We have now well-trained professors, clinicians, and researchers who can write books that are expressive of our medical problems. We have plenty of materials on diseases that are top killers in our country such as, tuberculosis.

malaria, amoebic dysentery, snail fever, beriberi, and others. These diseases should be given emphasis in our medical schools. We have diseases that are peculiar to us because of our race and geography, as “bangungot”, H-fever, amok, and others, on which our doctors can write well. The wisdom of our eminent doctors—as Singian, Guerrero, Quintos, Miciano, Potenciano, and others, should have been preserved in books for the medical students of today. It seems to me that we are more than ready to make our own contribution to the literature and practice of world medicine—a distinctly Filipino contribution, which not only will facilitate the development of Philippine medicine, but also focus upon us, as a creative force, the attention of the medical world.

I wish, too, that our doctors would explore more vigorously our local medicinal products. With your support, our local drug laboratories could be inspired to embark on researches utilizing local medicinal plants. There are plants in our midst which even the laymen know for their medicinal values—as *alagao* for bronchitis, *dita* for malaria, *banaba* for diabetis, and *talapunay* for anxiety states. The pharmacologists know more. Let us start benefiting by these natural blessings ourselves, at the same time perhaps helping our neighbor nations similarly endowed, but not yet in a technical position to make use of this resource.

My thoughts for you today are inspired not solely by my desire to conserve our dollars and increase employment, but more by the desire to see the assertion of positive nationalism in the medical profession. Our student days as a nation are over. We have reason to be proud of our record as students, and we are sufficiently intelligent to realize that in the sciences the need for continued study never ends, but we must recognize the obligation of our maturity. Our duty to ourselves and to our race is that we employ what we acquire as students as creative contributors—distinctly Filipino contributors—to mankind’s expanding horizons of knowledge.

This, my dear Doctors, is my message to you today. Devote some serious thought to it and let us work together for its realization.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay on launching the nationwide celebration of Medicine Week. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(12), 5469-5471.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the First National Convention of the Confederation of Citizens Labor Unions

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the First National Convention of the Confederation of Citizens Labor Unions**

[Delivered at the Central Hotel, September 16, 1956]

OFFICERS OF THE CONFEDERATION OF CITIZENS LABOR
UNIONS, GUESTS AND FRIENDS:

I AM honored by your invitation to your first national convention. It is not a personal secret that, not so long ago, I used to be intimately associated with men who work with their hands, on the farm and in the shop. I am not, therefore, exaggerating when I say that the problems of labor are familiar to me. Having also had a hand in the management of a business long before I joined the government service, I believe I have a right to presume that I am acquainted with the varied problems of management, including its headaches.

But before I share a few thoughts with you this morning, allow me to congratulate you for what looks to me like a highly successful convention. Although it is the first of its kind held by your newly-organized confederation, I cannot but congratulate the respective officers and members of the unions that compose this big labor group. I know that this is a significant event to all of you, and for that matter, to Philippine labor as a whole. The formation of this confederation means greater unity among you, better understanding in your ranks, and a stronger determination on your part to play your role more effectively and usefully in our country's economic program.

Less than a month ago, I addressed a labor group like this, and now I am with a similar gathering. What impresses me as I peruse your program, is that your confederation comprises labor unions whose members belong to different fields of industry, demonstrating, therefore, the affinity among working men and women. In the past, it was not easy to gather under one banner people engaged in different lines of work, but I notice that, as the years pass, our workers are growing more and more union-conscious, and the unions are becoming more and more confederation-minded. It may take sometime before our labor unions finally achieve complete unity, as even in a highly industrialized country like the United States, where labor has attained a high degree of progress and enlightenment, it took decades before the two biggest labor groups became united under a common banner. But you have the advantage of having profited from the experiences of workingmen and labor groups of other countries; you need not start from scratch in so far as wisely steering the course of your unions is concerned. The facilities and opportunities that have been made available to Filipino labor leaders, such as study grants and training abroad, seminars, and conferences in different countries, including our own, plus the counsel furnished by friendly American labor advisers who have been working side by side with you from time to time, have enabled you to learn and put into practice the know-how of labor leadership.

Judging by the readiness of our working elements to unite and form labor groups and by their determination to rid their unions of influences that tend to divide and weaken them, it is safe to say that trade unionism is here to stay. But I would like to add that if our labor groups are to be truly effective, if they are to be of utmost service to the men and women that comprise them, and, above all, if they are to be respected by management, they should conduct themselves in such a manner as to gain the respect, not only of their employers but of the community.

From time to time, my attention is attracted by disputes and strikes in certain establishments or factories which sometimes result in violence. Only a few days ago, there was a newspaper report about a free-for-all that took place between picketing workers on strike and company officials. Both sides sustained injuries. Not being acquainted with the details of the controversy which led to the strike, it is not for me to comment one way or another as to which side is right. But this much I can say: No matter who is right in this particular dispute, the fact is that it is, indeed, an unfortunate occurrence for employers and employees to be engaged, not in an intelligent, dispassionate, and

peaceful arbitration of a dispute, but in fisticuffs. For no matter whatever side wins in a free-for-all, it cannot be denied that the spectacle is an indication that brute force has triumphed over reason. Resort to violence during a labor controversy is an admission of lack of strong, intelligent leadership, either on the part of labor or of management. In my opinion, there is no dispute that cannot be settled by means of conferences or arbitration. Employer and employee can get along well together if they have a will to do so.

A successful labor-management relation can be achieved only under certain conditions and circumstances. A company that accepts unionism as an institution and the collective bargaining process will find peace with its workers. An establishment that considers a strong and free labor union as an asset to management will realize the fruits of industrial peace. It has also been proven that a company that stays out of the union's internal affairs, that is, a firm which does not intervene with matters that inherently belong to the union generally avoids disputes. To my mind, it is not good for any employer to alienate the worker's allegiance to his union; any employer courts trouble who attempts to undermine the faith and confidence of the worker in his union officials.

There is the other side of the picture. I believe that labor-management peace can be easily attained if the union members will accept the fact that management has a right to operate its business according to its program, and that the welfare of the workers depends upon the successful operation of that business. Labor-management disputes arise when the workers, through selfish, misguided leadership, begin, to encroach upon the rights and prerogatives of the employer.

The factors that bring about labor-management peace are difficult to find. In my experience, both as a laborer in my younger days and as a part of management in later years, harmony and progress can be achieved by any establishment if mutual trust and confidence exist between the partners of industry, employer and employee. Unless there are ideological incompatibilities between the two parties, there is no reason why sound cooperation cannot be attained. That is why I suggest that instead of looking for legal loopholes which only breed hostility, instead of trying to outwit each other, union and management should have more information-sharing and consultations in order to solve common problems; instead of suspicion and doubt in each other's motives, employer and worker should develop mutual trust and confidence.

There may be other factors of successful labor-management relations, aside from those I have briefly discussed. But I honestly believe that the single factor that sums up all that I have said is this: mutual respect for each other. It is only when employer and employee treat each other in all things as equally dignified human beings that they can get along harmoniously and achieve the objectives that they have set to accomplish together.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay at the First National Convention of the Confederation of Citizens Labor Unions. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (12), 5471-5474.

Address of President Magsaysay at the Presentation Rally sponsored by the Central Student Organization

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Presentation Rally sponsored by the Central Student Organization**

[Delivered at the Far Eastern University, Manila, September 25, 1956]

THE YOUTH AND NATIONAL PROBLEMS

ON THIS occasion, my first words must be of commendation and congratulation. I felicitate the new officers of the Central Student Organization. As a firm believer in democracy, I have abiding respect and admiration for those who are elevated to high offices through the free choice of their constituents. I also commend the student body of this university and their government for learning earnestly at this early stage the processes of democracy.

In these processes you may have observed that the means of popular control are still imperfect. The election of officers by ballot is the most direct means of popular control. If properly and honestly conducted, its result reflects the will of the people. But when it is dishonestly held, it can subvert the popular will and make of democracy a mockery and a shame.

Officers honestly elected can be expected to respect public office as a trust, but those who win public office dishonestly are likely to make of public office an opportunity for self-aggrandizement. And when the elective officials turn dishonest and irresponsible, their appointees cannot but follow suit. A corrupt government results.

Student governments, like other human institutions, cannot be expected to be perfect; yet, because they have intelligent electorates and are advised by scholars, they should be able to maintain a high level of integrity and honesty and always respect and uphold the public will. College men should naturally greet signs and manifestations of corruption with disgust and revulsion, a feeling which should intensify with maturity, so that when they themselves become the electors and candidates of the country, they will demand clean elections and honest government.

Nurtured in the atmosphere of science and scholarship, the student governments in our universities should be the training grounds for civic-spirited citizens, honest electors, and dedicated public servants. Only such elements in our population can make our democracy an effective and successful means to progress and achievement. If, on the contrary, student governments produce only future synical citizens, prostituted voters, and corrupt politicians, they have no reason for being and should be abolished as breeding places of dirty politics.

University students, even as they may still be playing at campus politics, have a share of the national responsibility. In fact, in some countries of the world, they are among the most sensitive and perceptive to the dangers that beset the national welfare. Their support and approval are courted by statesmen and politicians, and they are among the first to reflect discontent and disgust through public demonstrations and sometimes disorder when they sense corruption, duplicity, or tyranny. In other countries, however, university students usually confine their interest to campus affairs and very seldom let their voice be heard in the affairs of their elders.

I should like to see Filipino university men and women strike a happy medium between the assertiveness of the first and the unconcern of the second. They may properly place the campus in the stream of national life, but they should avoid the mistaken feeling that they alone can conquer its often treacherous currents. Young and inexperienced, they should maintain an attitude of open-mindedness; they should never forget that they are to seek knowledge more than try to impart it. In the practical affairs of business and politics, they cannot know more than their elders. In all things, they must remember that they are still students truly eager to know, but perhaps still unable to judge.

We do have urgent national problems in whose consideration and solution thoughtful university students can and should participate, not so much that they may help their elders, but more to acquire the proper attitude for themselves. I shall now proceed to name ten of those problems.

Undoubtedly the national problem with which students are most intimately related is the educational work and the oft-repeated fear that its standards are deteriorating. This is the first problem I want to take up. It is true that there have been introduced educational changes and reforms which have proven unwise. Fortunately, they are being gradually corrected. But the students must also contribute to the goal of making our education efficient and effective.

I feel that the students themselves have contributed instead to the much-lamented deterioration by their passivity their unwillingness to work hard, and their dissipation of energy in extraneous matters. It is a fact that modern life offers many distractions in the form of social affairs, movies, radio and television, games, jukeboxes, the "rock 'n roll," and many others. Escape from them is often difficult. Yet, if the students are passive and indifferent in the classrooms, they fail not only themselves but also in their part of stimulating their professors into greater effort. Mutual student-professor apathy may well be one of the most dangerous diseases that afflict our education.

We have heard much denunciation of corruption in public office. This, the second problem in my list, is not new. It seems that corruption has been with us for a long time. To eradicate this evil and replace it with the virtue of honesty, firm supervision, and constant vigilance at the top are of help, but are not sufficient. Only when honesty is built-in as a quality in our citizens will it also exist as a part of the personality of officials and employees.

It is therefore of utmost importance that our college students develop a sense of honor and integrity, for they will be the examples of their communities, the future officials and employees of our government. Honesty must begin in the classrooms, the laboratories, the gymnasiums, and the student governments. A college or university which tolerates dishonesty in any form has failed miserably in its duty and responsibility of guiding the youth to fulfillment and achievement.

The third problem to which I want to draw the attention of university students is that of proper approach to public questions. The freedom of speech and press is a democratic boon for which men have died to win and preserve. Its exercise is indispensable to a democracy. But mainly owing to blind partisanship or sheer unintelligent approach, this freedom has more been abused as often as it has been honored in the observance. It has become a habit to criticize but a rare favor to praise.

Our universities and their scholars and, following their examples, their students, should be the source of a counterbalancing influence. If the uninformed and unintelligent, the partisan and the disgruntled, harp and yammer, university men should talk sense and contribute wisdom. Educated in the scientific approach, they should set the example in the impartial, intelligent, and logical consideration of public questions.

This leads to the fourth problem. We have the tendency to accent the negative rather than the positive—to be critical rather than approving, to be destructive rather than constructive. We love loose talk and shy away from solid deed.

This is a tendency which should find no encouragement on a college campus. Students should be oriented to the positive and constructive, on the principle that while any vandal can criticize and destroy, it takes learning and labor, such as taught on the campus, to create and achieve.

Our unemployment situation projects the problem of adjustability, the fifth problem that I wish to mention. The vast majority of our jobless are either unskilled on the one hand or overskilled on the other. That it is difficult for the unskilled to obtain jobs is not unexpected. But that the trained and educated should be unable to employ themselves, is a reflection on the kind of education our colleges offer and our students choose. For one of the landmarks of good education is the adjustability of the individual to changing circumstances.

We have trained teachers, engineers, lawyers, accountants, stenographers, and other professionals and specialists who seem to feel entirely lost outside of their narrow specializations. If this is truly the case, it is evident that they

are the victims of the craze for sharply focused, narrow education that has neglected the liberal arts. Since the liberal arts furnish the keys to all the principal departments of human interest, the graduate possesses a universality that gives him the flexibility for adjusting to the vicissitudes of life. It is time for college students to see to it that whatever specialization they may follow, is firmly anchored on the broad base of the liberal arts.

But no matter how well-educated a man may be, he will not be a credit to the nation unless he also possesses civic spirit. The growing lack of civic spirit is the sixth problem I have in mind.

There is an increasing tendency to be self-centered among many of our youth, a tendency which will surely make them islands in themselves—isolated, unconcerned, and uncooperative—when they return to their communities. Democratic freedom can be destructive if it leads to individual selfishness and isolation, but it is useful if it results in cooperation. Since cooperativeness is the mark of good citizenship, our universities must help young men and women to acquire that sense of community which is the basis of civic spirit. Unless citizens feel a share and responsibility in making their community a success, unless they feel a share of guilt in its failure, apathy is their rule of life. Apathetic citizens cannot make a successful democracy.

The problem of leadership is the seventh problem which I commend to university people. In a free country such as ours, composed of thousands of islands stretching over great distances and inhabited by people who are just now emerging from the old curse of poverty and ignorance, there is need for leadership on all levels and departments of activity. The national leadership is impotent unless it is supported by a series of secondary leaderships, forming a continuous chain of initiative reaching down to the very masses. Obviously, the people to man this chain must come mainly from our colleges and universities.

University men and women are meant to be leaders, for leadership is nurtured by superior wisdom combined with the ability to inspire others to exert their utmost for the accomplishment of a given objective. Students acquire the information which, when reflected upon, and integrated with, their general fund of knowledge, becomes wisdom. In their different campus organizations and group activities, they learn the give-and-take of team work, and practice handling men and coordinating their efforts.

The university is the natural training ground for leaders. It is therefore expected to give to the country those men and women of wisdom and inspiration who will awaken our masses to their potentialities and lead them to greater exertion, cooperation, and productivity.

At this early stage of our independence and national growth, we are confronted with the old, yet ever-changing problems of nationalism, internationalism, and patriotism the eighth, ninth, and tenth problems in my list.

Preparing to join the intelligentsia among our citizens, university students cannot be indifferent to the country's rising nationalism. Indeed, they are often appealed to by those who would stir up nationalistic sentiment in the belief that they are the most responsive and assertive. We must by all means be nationalists—intelligent and constructive nationalists.

But, because nationalism can easily become impulsive and emotional, it can also be dangerous and destructive. It can become jingoistic and can undermine our friendship and amity with other nations. College students and college graduates, being possessed of higher intelligence and reason, can contribute sobriety and thoughtfulness to Filipino nationalism.

Nationalism must be balanced with internationalism. Like citizens, nations cannot live in isolation and be progressive and happy. They must conduct commerce, exchange culture, and band together for self-defense. Thermonuclear weapons have made war, peace, and survival indivisible, making international cooperation and friendship all the more indispensable. College men and women, being heirs to all the cultures of the world, have the best qualification and disposition to promote international friendship. Without sacrifice of our sovereignty, which we can best safeguard by cultivating international friendship with self-respect and dignity, we must avoid neutralism which is the way of the opportunist and the bluff and bluster which are likely to bring us only the contempt of others.

It has become almost old-fashioned to appeal to patriotism, so neglected has been this highest of all national virtues. While being torn between nationalism and internationalism, we shall find sure anchorage on the old-time teachings of patriotism. They are direct and simple: love of our motherland, of our people, of our traditions, and of our achievements.

If I might be permitted to suggest a decalog for the youth, I would list the ten virtues I have described as essential to the proper solution of our public problems—the virtues of conscientious studiousness, of scrupulous honesty and integrity, of open-minded and scientific approach to public questions, of a positive as against the negative attitude, of educating for adjustability to economic vicissitudes, of cultivating civic spirit, of training for leadership, of sober nationalism, of friendly internationalism, and of intense patriotism. If our youth can acquire these qualities, they will pass into manhood and womanhood better-prepared than their predecessors to build this, our motherland, to a great and happy Republic.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Address of President Magsaysay at the Presentation Rally sponsored by the Central Student Organization. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(12), 5475-5480.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the commemoration ceremony of the Leyte landing Speech
of**

**His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines**

At the commemoration ceremony of the Leyte landing

[Released on October 20, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

I WOULD like to recapture for you today the suspense, the anxious waiting, the seemingly endless days of expectancy and anticipation as we stood in our homes, out in the jungles, in our hideouts, or out on patrol in our towns and barrios during World War II, all of us hoping against hope that the American Forces of Liberation would come at last to end for our people the long night of enemy occupation. To do this, however, is beyond my powers of description.

It is difficult indeed to recapture those days of September and October of 1944. We had gone through physical and spiritual torments for more than three years. We were undaunted, but we were also nearing the end of our rope. Those last days of October when hope grew fainter every day—they seem so dim and distant now. The sufferings and hardships we stoutly bore, all the sacrifices we had undergone, all the terrible ordeal of *zonas*, Fort Santiago, torture, executions—they are today but a memory reminding us of the valor and vitality of our nation, a nation that refused to be enslaved. The scars of those days we proudly bear as symbols of undying loyalty to a cause to which our people had been dedicated from Mactan to Tirad Pass to Bataan, the cause of freedom.

But we can and do remember, as we gather today, the unrestrained rejoicing and jubilation when the news reached us through our hidden radios that General Douglas MacArthur and his troops had landed here on Red Beach. That is engraved in our minds, and it will be unforgettable as long as we live. America had returned, proving that her word was her bond. Poorly prepared for the first surprise attack and lacking nearby facilities where they might rally and recover initiative, America's armed forces were rolled back to the very mainland. And in those days before the jet bomber and flying boxcars the road back was long and difficult. To sustain us during that long bloody struggle, we had only our own determination to resist enslavement and America's promise to return.

During the last dark days prior to the landing here on Red Beach, there was doubt in many a heart that America would redeem its promise to come back. Enemy propagandists worked hard to discredit that promise. We heard the whispered voices of those who sought to kill the faith of our fighting men by poisoning them with the insinuation that the Americans were interested only in liberating those of Europe but not the peoples of Asia, who cannot claim with them a common racial origin.

But America returned, and another chapter in Philippine-American relations was written, contrary to the dire prophecies of the enemy. The Leyte landing marked the unbroken continuity in the history of two peoples destined to set a new pattern of East-West cooperation in the evolution of humanity towards its goal of brotherhood and peace. History tells us now what we did not know then: That within the American military councils a question debated was whether to by-pass the Philippines for military expediency or honor the moral commitment to return. The moral position won out. And America returned triumphantly, not only because it had the might and the power and the will to redeem its promise, but also because—and this must not be forgotten and it must be underscored—because the Filipino guerrillas for three years continued fighting the enemy in a nationwide resistance movement that for resourcefulness, courage, heroism, and devotion to the cause of freedom will rank as among the foremost in the history of World War II, and also because we had a civilian population that refused to be discouraged, intimidated, or terrorized, and which, in spite of all the false promises of the enemy, did not bend its knee to the invader.

May I, at this juncture, pay tribute to our Commonwealth Government-in-Exile, under the leadership of those two great statemen, Manuel L. Quezon and Sergio Osmeña. Their inspiration and guidance during those dark days were

invaluable to us because with their determination and patriotism they kept the spark of freedom aflame in our hearts. Too little credit has been given them for their share in our liberation. It is meet and proper that today we should honor them also as we commemorate this historic occasion.

President Quezon did not live to see the defeat of the enemy, but we know how, sick and bedridden in Washington, Florida, or Saranac, he ceaselessly fought for us that we might see the glory of our liberation. President Osmeña landed here with the American Forces, undergoing all the hardships that the troops underwent, and it was his courage and statesmanship that helped to steer us through those difficult and turbulent initial days of reestablishing our civil government. It is our great privilege that Don Sergio should grace this occasion today with his presence. All honor to these two great leaders who have earned the eternal gratitude of our people.

Twelve years have lapsed since that historic landing. Again, true to its promise, America proclaimed our independence on July 4, 1946. There were doubts, too, that such an act of relinquishing its sovereignty over our country would ever take place. But it did take place, and we achieved our freedom under the aegis of the United States. But, as we took our first steps as an independent nation, a new danger arose—the danger of Communism. We realized the threat that it was (and still is) to our newly won freedom, and we fought it with all we had. Again our people rose as one man, to uphold the values that it had learned to cherish, in the democratic way of life. The fight continues in many insidious forms, and we should ever be on the alert and never allow the weakening of our defenses against infiltration or subversion, which we know continue despite temporary changes in tactics, which only tend to deceive and mislead.

We have made our choice. We believe in an Almighty that has endowed us with a soul, and we reject the materialistic interpretation of the human individual as merely a creature and servant of an all-powerful state. We have taken our stand for democracy and have aligned ourselves with the free world and the United States as our friends and allies, in whose promises we know we can trust. We will continue to insist with firmness and dignity on our rights of sovereignty, confident that the American people will support us in asserting such sacred rights, since they themselves know by experience that eternal vigilance is not only the price, but the armor of liberty.

On this day, therefore, of liberation, we rededicate ourselves to the democratic ideals, which we share with all freedom-loving peoples, and at the same time pledge ourselves to continue fighting to maintain inviolate our sovereign rights as a free people. Only by insisting on proper respect for our independence and passion for freedom can we do honor to that way of life which we have chosen in preference to an ideology that spurns human dignity and ignores God.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay at the commemoration ceremony of the Leyte landing. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(14), 6131-6133.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the 1956 UN Flag Ceremony

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On the occasion of the 1956 UN Flag Ceremony

[Delivered at the Independence Memorial Grandstand, Luneta, Manila, October 24, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

WHEN, a few weeks ago, the Suez Canal controversy was at its height, the persistent question in many diplomatic posts in Asia and other countries in Europe and Latin America was this: Why was the United Nations not being used? Why, against its impressive record of successful mediations in most of the great conflicts of our time, were the parties to the Suez Canal dispute not availing themselves of the good offices of the United Nations?

On my part I had the certain feeling that the United Nations way, which to me is the reasonable way, would prevail in the end. Sooner or later, I thought, the tested methods of conciliation used by the world organization in former crises would be used again with every promise of success. And that exactly was what happened. The principals, on sober second thought, went to the Security Council, which is now occupied with the problem. This action halted the warlike demonstrations which for a time placed the world perilously on the brink of war.

Thus, once again, humanity was saved from possible catastrophe by the intervention of the United Nations. Since then, efforts have been exerted to bring about a peaceful settlement of a situation which otherwise would have led to a breach of the peace.

Over the years, United Nations performance in the peaceful settlement of disputes has been highly successful. Way back in 1946, Russian troops tried to occupy little Iran, but through the good offices of the Security Council, the occupying troops were persuaded to abandon their original intention, and the Iranians are now as free as you and I.

It took only moral pressure on the part of the United Nations to prevent Iran's enslavement by the Communists, but in another instance—that of Greece in 1947—the General Assembly had to see military force used on behalf of the legitimate Greek government to repel aggression from neighboring Communist countries. And in that way the Greek nation was saved from the clutches of Stalinist tyranny.

Other cases of effective United Nations intervention must not be forgotten. In 1949, the India-Pakistan feud was stopped short of war by the Security Council, which prevailed upon the parties to agree to a cease fire. In Indonesia, the same year, United Nations mediation put a stop to the so-called "police action," by the armed forces of the Netherlands, eventually making possible the organization of the Indonesian Republic and its subsequent admission to the United Nations.

Then came the Berlin episode of September, 1948. Soviet Russia took it upon itself to restrict transport and communications between the Western zones of occupation in Germany and Berlin. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France, in separate notes to the Secretary General of the U. N. General Assembly, denounced the Soviet act as a direct threat to the peace. The Soviets, however, ignored the protest. With bated breath, the world waited for the first trigger-happy Soviet soldier to fire at the Allied planes which had countered the Soviet pressure tactic with an airlift of urgent supplies to Berlin against the land blockade set up by the Russian military. Humanity found itself again on the brink of war, until the Security Council and later on the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General mediated in the conflict. As a result the Soviets, having failed in their blockage, were dissuaded from more reckless attempts to bring West Berlin to its knees.

All of you today are familiar with the bloody episode of Korea. You will recall how, with the assistance of so-called “volunteer” forces from Communist China, troops of North Korea crossed the 38th parallel to invade the Republic of Korea, which the United Nations itself had helped to bring into existence. That was aggression pure and simple, and it became the manifest duty of the United Nations to stop it. Thus began the first collective armed action in the United Nations’ history.

Sixteen member states, among them our own, pooled their resources, military and economic, to stop the aggressors in their tracks. It happened that owing to the veto used by one of the first permanent members of the Security Council, namely, Soviet Russia, that the Council found itself immobilized before the Communist attack; hence, the “uniting-for-peace” action by the General Assembly in order to cope with an actual breach of the peace. The Assembly, however, left no room for doubt that its aim was not to wage war but to stop an unprovoked attack. And the Korean episode passed down in history as an example of effective localized armed action in behalf of world peace.

It must be pretty clearly understood by now that the United Nation is here to stay in the supreme interest of world peace. Eleven years ago, when the United Nations was launched in San Francisco, the atomic era had barely begun, and although we had seen an arrogant military crushed by the blast of the first atom bomb, there was not yet the frightful spectre of the nuclear weapon. Now we know for sure not only that the more destructive hydrogen bomb exist, but that its use in a general war would blanket every human habitation on earth with deadly fall-out. And you and I, and all the rest of humanity, no matter how piously neutral we might be, would go out of existence with the rest of the species.

Such is the grim prospect for this best of all possible worlds of ours, should the irresponsible among us throw discretion to the wind and let their tempers get the better of them.

With all its trials and tribulations, life is good and we all enjoy living. But the way to live is in peace, not in suspicion and fear. And here is where the United Nations comes in, to help recast our world into a community of good neighbors and friends.

It is the special characteristic of the community being developed under United Nations auspices that, while each nation retains its identity and its character, all are animated by the desire to be neighbors of a world-community pulling together to attain higher standards of life for all.

As noted in the Soviet veto on Korea, the arrogance of power has at times frustrated the work of the Security Council. But this is not so in the General Assembly, where all the members, big and small, rich and poor, are co-equal in their standing as sovereign states. In this body, the vote of the Philippine Republic has the same weight as that of the biggest world power.

As a small nation, the Republic of the Philippines has a special interest in the growth and effectiveness of the United Nations. Not only our existence as a nation, but also the realization of our moral right to equal status with other nations, regardless of size, depends upon the achievement of a world ruled by law and not by force.

Modern technology has stripped us of such defenses as our rugged coastline and the broad seas which surround us. It has neutralized the courage and the fighting zeal of our citizenry. Alone in a jungle world, our nation could only hope to die bravely in defense of its freedom and integrity. This, we are convinced, is not the destiny of small nations which civilization and the growth of the human conscience has brought into being. A pattern more in keeping with what the human mind can conceive as being the divine way, is the pattern of the United Nations. It is a pattern of peace and justice, of cooperation and brotherhood, of mutual effort in realizing for each member of the human family the fullness and richness of life which the Almighty holds forth to those who walk in the paths of righteousness.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay on the occasion of the 1956 UN Flag Ceremony. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(14), 6133-6136.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Alumni Homecoming of the College Editors' Guild

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Alumni Homecoming of the College Editors' Guild**

[Delivered at the Philippine-American Homes Clubhouse, October 27, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

WHEN the invitation was extended to me to address this gathering of alumni and members of the College Editors' Guild, it was suggested that I speak on positive nationalism.

It seems to me that we should first agree on one thing—that there is only one kind of nationalism, that one which the dictionary defines as “devotion to, or advocacy of, national interests.” If we insist on emphasizing its positive aspect, it is to remind ourselves that devotion to national interests demands more than mere lip service. It calls for the practical expression of that devotion in our daily lives. To me nationalism is a living force which should add to, and not subtract from, the material and spiritual assets of the nation. It is well to talk about it. But it is more important in the practice than in the definition.

This is not to say that words can not enhance positive nationalism. As college editors, some of whom have gone on to practice the profession of journalism with great distinction, you need not be reminded that words—when they speak the truth—the whole truth—discharge an important function in the development of our national life. Public information is a vital component in the structure of a democratic society. And you who are trained in this science have a mission to perform in the interest of our nation. Our people are entitled to expect from the alumni and members of this Guild leadership in the dissemination of truth. They expect you to lead in distinguishing truth from half-truth and from absolute falsehood.

The distinction between truth and half-truth or falsehood is as essential to our democracy as the distinction between the positive nationalism that builds and the mislabelled nationalism that destroys. For truth strengthens freedom. It helps the nation to think clearly and to proceed with confidence on the road to progress and security. Half-truths and falsehood can destroy freedom completely. They confuse the nation, rob it of its self-confidence, and leave it helpless on the road, an easy victim to the designs of tyrants.

There is more than one instance in which our people must be rescued from the confusion into which they are sought to be plunged in the name of nationalism. One example may be sufficient here. In an effort to drive us to the ways of neutralism, our people are told that we are not respected in Asia because of our close relations with other countries, particularly the United States, who are pledged together with us to the collective defense of this area against the Communist advance.

And where may we find support for this assumption? Leaders in Communist Asian territories will support it, of course. But there are only three such leaderships in East and Southeast Asia. Does this assumption find approval in the other Asian countries of this area? Certainly not among our allies in the very same collective defense pacts. Certainly not among our other fellow Asian countries who pursue the same policy towards the Communist revolution. And even the leaders of neighboring free countries that do not follow our chosen course are more fair in their appraisal of our relations than some of our countrymen. For instance, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia was only last May quoted in the world press as saying: “We have always envied the Philippines. The way the United States has helped build them up is an example of what we want”.

There are some countries in this area whose leaders follow a course of action different from ours because of various considerations. Their representatives have told us that they respect our right to our own policies just as we told them

that we respect theirs. And they have not said that if their circumstances were like ours, they would not adopt our policies.

It is one thing to seek respect. It is another thing to harbor pretensions to leadership. The former we admit. The latter we do not even discuss. The leadership that we seek for this area is the collective leadership of free men. And we believe that the supremacy of freedom is not possible in this area or in any other part of the world if free nations do not take positive collective action in the defense of their liberties against the open and the covert attack of the Red conspiracy.

My friends, our press has been called the freest in the world. If this is so, then we should be proud of it, and it is my pledge that the constitutional freedom of expression shall not be unduly limited by any one in my administration. I ask you also, present and former college editors, to strengthen this freedom by leading in the observance of its responsibilities—the first of which is the responsibility for the truth. I do not advocate censorship, for censorship is precisely the suppression of truth. I advocate truth—the truth that will confirm the people's confidence in the institution of democracy and put them on the right road to happiness and security.

My friends, I see by your roster that many of your colleagues have reached positions of distinction, not only in the field of journalism, but also in the fields of government and private enterprise and occupation. This is not surprising. There is perhaps no better training for leadership than a thorough training in the defense of truth. Do not fail your country in the responsibilities of your leadership. Give us the truth—the truth in government, the truth in business, the truth in the professions, the truth in every human endeavor, for it is only the truth that can lead to correct action. And action is the key to that advocacy of the national interests which is called for in the pursuit of nationalism in our time.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay at the Alumni Homecoming of the College Editors' Guild. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (15), 6476-6478.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the American Film Exchange Employees Association and the Federation of Free Workers

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the American Film Exchange Employees Association and the Federation of Free Workers**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, October 30, 1956]

I am honored by your invitation to this happy occasion. This affair, being a commemoration of an important event which took place more than two years ago between the Association of Film Exchange Employees affiliated with the Federation of Free Workers and those who constitute the Management of the various film exchange companies in Manila, is truly significant. I am happy that you have just renewed your working agreement, because it means a lot to you. By prolonging the life of your contract, you have virtually insured the peace, harmony, and understanding that have existed between you for more than a couple of years.

I understand that the signing of a new contract between the union and the management also brought with it increased compensation and higher separation pay. Above all, deserving workers have been granted disability and death benefits. Considering the fact that these concessions from management were obtained without your union's resorting to a strike, much less other forms of unpleasantness which generate enmity and bitterness between employer and employee, I dare say, that yours has been a friendly partnership. I am led to believe, and I do honestly believe, that your relationship has been characterized by sincerity of purpose; that between you there has been a mutuality of interest and a desire to work along together productively.

I, therefore, congratulate you for having reached another significant milestone in your relationship. Having been an employee myself in my early years, and later, having worked as a part of management, I know that when the relationship between employer and worker is smooth, much is accomplished by both. On the other hand, when there is discord, suspicion, and mutual distrust; when neither labor nor management respects each other's right and feelings, the inevitable outcome of such relationship or association is destructive. Neither labor nor management benefits from that kind of partnership.

In this connection, allow me, for a moment, to express the views of a man with whom I had an intimate conversation recently on the subject of labor-management relation. This individual happens to be a top man in business; he is what is often referred to as a business leader. His opinions may be somewhat biased, a little bit prejudiced, in favor of capital or management because of his position in the community; but I shall, repeat them to you for what they are worth, because I believe that they are worth analyzing.

This man told me that one reason why certain wealthy individuals in our country are hesitant to invest their money in certain businesses enterprises, is that they are afraid of labor. He said that a belligerent, negative attitude on the part of labor is enough to drive fear into the hearts of those who have been thinking of investing their fortunes in various business ventures. A wrong attitude on the part of workers in a new enterprise is sufficient to discourage any investor or investors, this businessman told me. In other words, he said, labor can kill capital if it takes an entirely wrong attitude. In substance, what this man meant was that if labor constantly hangs a sword of Damocles over the head of management, if labor continues to harass the man who puts up the money to capitalize an industry that can give employment and livelihood to hundreds or thousands of people, capital will withdraw into the background; it will be afraid and become more timid than before.

On the other hand, if right from the start, it at the inception of a new industry, labor will give capital a boost; if labor will help push forward the aims and objectives of management and gives the latter encouragement; if labor will sacrifice a few centavos and some of its *amor propio*, and goes out of its way to give capital a helping hand during the first years of the enterprise; if it will sincerely consider capital its partner instead of its enemy, there can be no

doubt that both will realize the fruits of their combined efforts. They will not only find peace and harmony, but they will realize the maximum benefits of their cooperative toil

As I have said, the man who mentioned these things to me may be somewhat biased, but there is some truth to what he said. For if an employee will show a belligerent attitude towards the man who has given him work, the latter entertains the feeling that his employee is not really his partner and friend. Thus, management and labor cannot start the partnership auspiciously. Instead, they will begin with a feeling of mutual distrust and disharmony which can only bring about loss of efficiency, absence of profits, and eventually loss of capital.

Today, there are many of our countrymen who are desirous of getting a job. I realize that they are truly deserving of our help. You, who are employed, have a duty to these people without work; you can help them by encouraging capital to invest its millions in productive industry. One of the things that you can do to encourage capital to make such investment is to show that you are not only helping but encouraging your employers to invest more money in various enterprises. You can encourage your employers only by giving them more cooperation, by bolstering their business, and by working in such a way as to enable them to realize more profits out of whatever capital they have invested. When people see that business is booming as a result of harmonious and productive management-labor relations, those who have been keeping their money in the banks or in their trunks are encouraged to invest their money in business; there is an incentive to go into business. But when people see that those already in business find it difficult to continue, when they get discouraging reports from people who have invested fortunes in big commercial ventures, the prospective businessman naturally develops fear and loses confidence. He becomes timid to engage in business.

On this happy occasion, my friends, I can say nothing more than extend to you my sincere wishes for happier and fruitful years ahead. I know that with the understanding, mutual respect, and harmony that have characterized your relationship, you will continue to enjoy working side by side together as you have been doing in the past. As one truly interested in your welfare, I hope that you will carry on as you have carried on during the last two years. May your relationship continue in such a way as to benefit each and every one of you and your families; may management continue to merit your trust and confidence; and may your combined efforts bring more happiness to our country and people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay before the American Film Exchange Employees Association and the Federation of Free Workers. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (15), 6479-6480.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

[Delivered at Luneta, October 31, 1956]

THE Boy Scout movement is perhaps one of the happiest ideas ever conceived by man concerned with citizenship training.

Indeed, Scouting is a great force that can weld in this Republic a strong and enlightened citizenry. Properly supported, it can be the defensive and offensive weapon against present-day juvenile delinquency. Because it is attractive, as it is instructive, to the youth of the land, it can bring back to the fold those who have gone astray.

At this juncture, I would like to salute those men and women who 33 years ago sacrificed time and effort and money to see this movement grow, for indeed those patriots are the benefactors not only of the Filipino youth but of the nation as well.

The fruits of their self-abnegation, those one hundred and forty thousand boy scouts scattered throughout the Republic, are our most valuable citizens today.

We are spending millions, a big slice of our national budget, in the field of education. We are trying the utmost to equip our youth with the best academic education. Yet we find this wanting: we discovered our task is to equip not only his mind but his heart, not only his body but his soul.

And the most effective method to inculcate in the minds and hearts of our young ones is the scouting movement where the value of virtue and strong character is not only taught but practiced.

Our citizenry can benefit from the training of the boy scout. The Scout's code of conduct teaches him to be skilled in practical and useful work; to be self-confident and reliant; to be cooperative and considerate of others; to be judicious in speech and action, yet courageous and brave; and above all, to be God-fearing, civic-spirited, and patriotic.

Our nation is young. And in our youth we are experiencing untold difficulties. At no other time in our nation's history is unity and cooperation among the citizenry more imperative than now.

A boy scout has the ability to cooperate, the knack of working as a team. Yet we find among us, people who would indulge in fault-finding rather than help; who would destroy rather than build.

What progress could have been attained, what public welfare could have been achieved, had more of our people, realizing that the progress of one is the progress of all, put their shoulders to the wheel together and contributed to the common advancement.

Another boy scout trait is zeal to do a good deed each day. Yet we find among us, people who not only refuse to do a good deed but make it a habit and a goal in life to frustrate the good deeds of others. If only that 'good-deed-a-day' trait were a norm of conduct of our people, what forward strides our nation can make, what happiness and contentment we can bring to ourselves.

Because I believe boy Scouting is one of the greatest discoveries in citizenship training, because I believe it will not only check but finally eradicate juvenile delinquency, for the youth is tomorrow's promise, I sincerely urge all our people to give their generous support to the scouting movement.

Only in this way can Scouting spread and bring its influence to an ever-increasing number of youth. Only in this way can it become a universal movement in our country in the foreseeable future. And only in this way can its salutary influence be felt by those who have not yet benefited from the training and teachings of the Scouting movement.

I join and congratulate you as you celebrate today the 33rd anniversary of organized Scouting and the 20th anniversary of the organization of the *Boy Scouts of the Philippines*.

May your observance of this Boy Scouts' Week bring to focus the important role you play in nation-building. May your efforts be crowned with greater glories.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Ramon Magsaysay before the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (15), 6480-6482.

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the induction ceremonies of District 301, Lions International**

For us, then, it is timely to be grateful that our actions have brought us only freedom and peace while others have lost or are losing their freedom or peace. The obvious lesson is that we should persist in our alertness; that we should continue within the limits of our capacities to work, through the established international organs, for world understanding and cooperation; and that we should continue to have faith in the mercy and wisdom of God.

That, I believe, is the course that is dictated for us by the times. It is the course which will enable you to continue with the splendid programs of Lionism and our people to proceed in their march towards progress, happiness, and security.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay at the induction ceremonies of District 301, Lions International, Saturday evening, November 3, 1956, at the Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(15), 6482-6483.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Batangas Lawyers Association

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Batangas Lawyers Association**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, November 24, 1956]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM grateful for this opportunity to address the members of the Batangas Lawyers Association.

To be a Batangas lawyer is to be possessed of a rare combination of qualities—the nobility that is associated with the legal profession and the fierce pride and courage which are the marks of a true Batangueño.

Men propelled by these qualities have provided the thinking and the leadership in every phase of our national effort to secure freedom and preserve it.

In the dawn of our freedom, it was a Batangas lawyer by the name of Apolinario Mabini who with his giant mind and brilliant pen outlined the philosophy of our revolution and the legal bases of our first Republic. Other Batangas lawyers surrounded him providing that libertarian movement with advice, inspiration, and action. Felipe Agoncillo was the first Philippine diplomat and Sotero Laurel, sire of lawyer-patriots, served brilliantly in Aguinaldo's Ministry of Justice. Diego Gloria, Braulio Bihasa, Pablo Borbon, Vicente Illustre, these were others from the province of Batangas whose legal talents were placed in the service of our people in that era of struggle and decision.

As we went into our period of preparation for freedom through constitutional processes, other Batangueños rose to grace the legal departments of government and the legal profession. Justice Araullo, Teodoro Kalaw, Ramon Diokno and Eusebio Orense to mention only a few of those who are no longer with us.

Of those who are with us, who will dispute the contribution of the Laurels, the Rectos, the De Joyas, the Ozaetas, the Levistes to the formation of the foundations of law and justice that are the anchors of our Republic?

Indeed, if Philippine law and Philippine justice are the pride of our people today, it is due in great measure to that rare combination of nobility, pride, courage, and sheer brilliance which the great lawyers from Batangas has displayed in the courts, in the legislative chambers, and in every field of legal endeavor in our democratic society.

These are qualities now shared by every Filipino lawyer worth his name. Indeed, there is only one quality which is not present in the great body of Filipino lawyers today—unity. Because of this lack of unity, the Filipino lawyers have not reached, as a group, that maximum of effectiveness in the service of our people that they have individually attained.

I am not a lawyer and I will not pretend to tell this group of distinguished lawyers of the benefits to their profession of a unified national lawyers' group. But in the discharge of the duties of my office, it is not difficult to see the necessity for such unity in the interest of the public service. There is need for unified advice on which the executive may call in appointments to positions involving the legal profession. There is need, I dare say, for such advice for Congress to seek in the passage of legislation. There is need for such unity in aiding the Supreme Court and our judicial system to uphold the effectiveness and the majesty of the law.

These are not new ideas. I believe it was Senate Jose P. Laurel who as early as the 1920's began the move for a unification of bar associations in the Philippines. I trust that Senator Laurel will continue to lead in the

accomplishment of this worthy end. And I hope that with the inauguration of the Batangas Lawyers Association the Philippines has found a group of lawyers which will work as such towards this end.

I can think of no better organization than this association of Batangas lawyers to spur the formation of a truly national lawyers' federation. For the Batangas lawyer possesses not only the nobility of his profession but also the pride and the courage of his provincial heritage. The Batangas lawyer is a patriot who will not only subscribe to unity but will lead in making that unity a reality.

May I congratulate the officers and members of this association for this brilliant inauguration. Let this be the signal for great accomplishments in the defense of individual freedom and the forging of unity in our land.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Speech of President Magsaysay before the Batangas Lawyers Association, November 24, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (16), 6869-6870.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay at Silliman University

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At Silliman University**

[Delivered on November 25, 1956]

PRESIDENT RUIZ,
MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND STUDENT BODY,
MY FRIENDS:

IN appearing here at Silliman, I feel it my first obligation to pay sincere tribute to the founder of this great University, Dr. Horace B. Silliman, who has generously contributed, through this institution and its graduates, to the progress and happiness of our country. For Silliman is one of our leading universities. Even the Monroe Survey of 1925, which many thought was overly harsh to, and critical of, Philippine schools and colleges, singled out Silliman saying that its plant, personnel, and instruction were “of the highest standards” and fully deserved “the high esteem in which it seems to be held throughout the islands.”

Universities like Silliman are the index to a nation’s capacity for greatness. Their graduates man the professions and direct the economy and their scholars, philosophers, and intellectuals create the blueprint of national life, forever guiding it to a nobler and loftier destiny.

The tradition of enlisting university men to build the philosophical basis of statesmanship is so well-established in America, as in Europe, that as soon as the Philippines became America’s responsibility, Washington sent scholars and intellectuals to Manila. When President McKinley sent his first Commission to the Philippines to conciliate the Filipinos, to report on their social and political developments, and to recommend the means and methods of administering their country, he relied heavily on university men. Of the Commission’s only three civilian members, two were scholars—Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman, president of Cornell University, and Professor Dean C. Worcester of the University of Michigan, perhaps the only American who had written a book on the Philippines up to that time. When the President formed the Second Philippine Commission headed by William Howard Taft, he again named two scholars—Worcester himself and Professor Bernard Moses of the University of California—to the five-man body. These intellectuals developed the benevolent philosophy of American rule in our country.

Influenced by the European and American tradition of utilizing intellectuals for the creative phases of statesmanship and by our own abiding faith in education, we Filipinos have always placed a great deal of reliance on our own university men. As we gained an increasing share in our government and while we were engaged in the task of convincing America of our readiness for independence, they played important parts. Trinidad Pardo de Tavera, Cayetano Arellano, Ignacio Villamor, Rafael Palma, the Kalaw Brothers, the Benitez Brothers, Jorge Bocobo, and many, others contributed their intellect and scholarship. They had of course been preceded by our great patriot intellectuals of the revolutionary period—Jose Rizal, Lopez Jaena, Marcelo del Pilar, and their contemporaries.

I have myself followed in my administration the policy of using the services of university men. I have found them most useful, especially in those aspects of our great task which require keen analysis of situations, thinking out problems and their solutions full circle, planning long-range programs, and advising on technical and specialized matters. Modern statesmanship has to do with practically all aspects of human life. And human life being constantly increasing in complexity on the one hand and the world being perpetually in crisis on the other hand, statesmen have to rely more and more on the trained thinkers of the universities, either mustered directly into service or reflecting

and writing on the problems of the nation in their ivory towers. The Government's efforts being aimed at the promotion of the people's welfare in all its forms and facts, the public administrator can bring about positive action more swiftly and surely when he can count with such assistance.

As a progressive university, Silliman has contributed scholars and intellectuals to the public service. Silliman alumni have occupied and continue to occupy key positions in our government. Its present president, Dr. Leopoldo Ruiz, was himself until recently one of the outstanding figures in our consular service. I urge the intellectuals of this institution, as well as of our other universities, to continue to give increasing thought and study to our contemporary problems, domestic as well as international. Our universities are the pools of talent from which Government administration may freely draw specialized assistance. Silliman should be ready to serve as such when required. In fact, I am certain that, given its tradition of scholarship, service, and accomplishment, Silliman will not fail to rise to any national situation by which it may be challenged.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech delivered at Silliman University, Sunday afternoon, November 25, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(16), 6870-6872.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC) Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the MOPC**

[Released on December 20, 1956]

I AM very happy to join you this evening, to be able to visit with so many old friends, and to meet so many new ones.

The Manila Overseas Press Club is a place for which I have a particular sentimental attachment. During my campaign in 1952 a number of foreign correspondents tried to keep up with me. The casualties were returned to this club, where they were revived by the administration of stimulants.

Carlos Nivera, the club president whose term has just ended, is to be commended for the job he has done in improving the physical facilities of the club and expanding its membership. I need not point out that Mr. Nivera is an outstanding advocate of deficit financing.

At the same time, your new president, Don Huth, is to be commended for his courage in assuming the task of negotiating with the creditors. Fortunately, the members seem willing to spend long hours at the bar in an effort to keep your finances liquid.

Seriously, however, it is a real pleasure to watch the Overseas Press Club add year after year to its traditions, constantly expanding its influence in the community. In this friendly and informal atmosphere the great ideas and issues and problems of our time are discussed and explored, and out of these friendly discussions comes the understanding which enables newsmen to inform and guide their reading public.

This information and guidance is a great service, one of the greatest. Its accuracy and completeness could determine the very survival of democracy and freedom. Clear thinking and sound judgment are the great needs of the day. Such thinking and judgment must be well informed, and we look to you to inform us. I have complete confidence in your exercise of this responsibility.

Let me wish you a merry Christmas and continued success during the New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's speech at MOPC, Friday night, December 20, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(18), 7571.

Address of President Magsaysay before the Manila Suburban Press Club

Address of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Manila Suburban Press Club

[Delivered at the Manila Press Club Building, December 27, 1956]

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MANILA SUBURBAN PRESS CLUB,
DISTINGUISHED HONOREES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE are here to honor patriotic citizens in and outside of the Government who, in the judgment of the Manila Suburban Press Club, have contributed signally to the healthy growth of democracy in our country. I congratulate the Club for having instituted these annual awards, and I felicitate this year's benefactors of democracy for their deeds which have deserved our praise and acclaim. It is itself a great contribution to the healthy growth of democracy to give public recognition to contributions in every form to our healthy democratic growth. For democracy in the Philippines is still in its young and tender years. The democratic principles and processes under which we live have been partly distilled from our experiences as a people and partly inherited from older democracies, especially England and the United States. We are therefore as yet in the process of assimilating democracy. Every effort to make that assimilation thoughtful and conscientious is a genuine contribution to the growth of democracy under our Republic.

But even as we are assimilating democracy, we are called upon to defend it with our lives. There has developed during the last several decades a new menace to freedom and liberty, a menace which has already become a present and active danger in our very midst. Communism has become a steady and creeping threat to the free world. In the Philippines, its adherents have taken up arms against the forces of the Government. I am especially gratified that among those whom we are honoring today are civilian and military men who have actively participated in the patriotic campaign to eradicate the vestiges of the Hukbalahap Communists in our country.

Both the assimilation and defense of democracy will be faster and more effective if we understand democracy clearly and thoroughly. We cannot possibly possess firm loyalty to the democratic way of life unless we also have an intelligent understanding and acceptance of its postulates. It has been said that the fight between Democracy and Communism is a struggle for men's minds, not for their blind loyalties. We in the Philippines will therefore greatly promote Democracy's healthy growth if we make a thoughtful attempt to understand it.

Democracy is a government in which public opinion has control. It follows that, in order to play fully its basically important democratic role, public opinion must be formed on the basis of accurate and comprehensive information made available to all citizens. It further follows that, to make available to the people accurate and comprehensive information, the organs of mass communication, especially the press, must be not only free but also responsible.

The freedom of expression, which in most effective form is freedom of the press, has been said to be nearest to the central meaning of liberty. The Commission on Freedom of the Press, chairmanned by Robert M. Hutchins when he was chancellor of the University of Chicago, declared in its report. "Where men cannot freely convey their thoughts to one another, no other liberty is secure. Where freedom of expression exists, the germ of a free society is already present, and the means is at hand for every extension of liberty. Free expression is therefore unique among the liberties as protector and promoters of others."

Indeed, without freedom of expression, none of the individual rights guaranteed in our Constitution could long last; and, without such rights, our democracy would soon perish. Since the ultimate responsibility for democracy seems to find anchorage in the freedom of expression, it is altogether fitting that the guardians of a free press, like the Manila Suburban Press Club, should themselves encourage other contributions to democracy.

If the press, together with the other organs of mass communication, possesses such a vast share in the development and preservation of democracy, then it is of utmost importance that its guardians understand and accept their tremendous responsibility. According to the famous American historian, Charles Beard, "in its origin, freedom of the press had little or nothing to do with truth-telling . . . most of the early newspapers were partisan sheets devoted to savage attacks on party opponents . . . freedom of the press meant the right to be just or unjust, partisan or nonpartisan, true or false, in news column or editorial column." But this was quite sometime ago, and it is altogether true that the more the public press has lived down this cold seamy reputation, the greater has been its progress and usefulness and the more effective it has become as the handmaiden of democracy.

The report of the Commission on Freedom of the Press, to which I have already referred, indeed declares that today, such behavior on the part of the press as Beard describes would be branded as sheer social irresponsibility.

"The press must know that its faults and errors have ceased to be private vagaries and have become public dangers," the report declares. "Its inadequacies menace the balance of public opinion. It has lost the common and ancient human liberty to be deficient in its function of to offer half truth for the whole." It is now quite established as a principle that the freedom of the press does not include the right to be deliberately or irresponsibly in errors. In the context of the relationship between the public press and democracy, what is the role expected of the Philippine press? I would answer this question by stating simply that the Philippine press should make use of its freedom to the utmost legitimate limits, but, in making use of this freedom in any way, it should keenly feel its responsibility as one of the basic influences in the development of a healthy democracy in our country. The Philippine press must be hospitable to ideas and attitudes different from its own, and it must present them to the public as meriting its attention. Disdaining the role of advocates for certain private causes or certain particular groups, the Philippine press must be faithful to its duty of disseminating truthful, accurate, and full information. It should always remember that "the freedom of the press was intended to guarantee free expression, not to create a privileged industry."

Although freedom of the press is guaranteed in our Constitution, it is not without limitations. We have laws on libel, defamation, and contempt among others, all of which are accepted limitations on press freedom. In the history of human expression, oral or written, the limitations have come about as a result of abuse and irresponsibility. And one of the most effective ways yet found to protect a profession from undue governmental interference is for its own members to require of themselves certain standards of behavior and practice usually embodied in a code of ethics. Now that practicing newspapermen in the Philippines are well-organized in the National Press Club, the Manila Suburban Press Club, and other compact groups, it will be quite possible for them to impose certain standards of practice among their members. In 1815, John Adams said of the public press, "Mankind cannot now be governed without it, nor at present, with it." It would be tragic if this indictment could also be hurled at our press today. Indeed, I am certain that the legitimate Philippine press is both capable of guiding our Republic and indispensable to its governance.

There cannot be democracy without journalism. No modern government in a modern country has been able to exist long without a public press. This is as true in the dictatorships which use the press as a medium of propaganda, as in the democracies which need the press as a medium of fair and accurate information. We in the Philippines can therefore do nothing better than to accept in good faith the historic partnership between Government and Journalism.

But this partnership rests on the delicate balance between mutual cooperation and mutual independence. In a democracy, the bulk of the news of public interest emanates from governmental sources. Government news is the principal stock in trade of Journalism. At the same time, a democratic government must have a day-to-day link with the people, a means by which it can inform the people of governmental policies and accomplishments. Thus the mutuality of interest between Government and press is clear-cut.

There is however, as I have said, a necessity for mutual independence between the Government and the press. The Government exercises that necessary independence by avoiding the premature publication of government news, premature in the sense that publicity may bring failure to a government project or give undue advantages to certain parties in regard to a government plan. So it is that the Government must maintain a degree of secrecy, however temporary, if it is to avoid the collapse or failure of important projects or the misuse of confidential information.

But matching this independence, the press needs independence of its own to be critical of Government acts and affairs whenever necessary. For the public press is expected not only to disseminate fair, accurate, and full information, but also to lead in the formation of public opinion, either favorable or unfavorable, regarding Government intentions, plans, and acts. Provided always that such criticism is primarily intended to inform or to lead in the crystallization of public opinion—not to serve pressure groups or assassinate individual character—the press has a perfect right, and should exercise the fullest freedom, in critically appraising and evaluating public affairs. The mutuality of interest between Democracy and Journalism needs to be supplemented by a mutuality of independence.

We who are in the Government and you who are in Journalism must, however, find a broader common loyalty in the fact that we are only temporary trustees—mere incidents—in our respective roles in the healthy development of democracy. The practices and processes we develop in Government and Journalism will be the guiding precedents to our successors and to coming generations. In trying to contribute our utmost to the healthy development of democracy in our country, we cannot afford to be opportunistic; we must always remember the temporary character of our respective roles; we must always bear in mind that we are all working together for a greater Philippine Republic and a happier future for all our people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Address delivered by President Magsaysay before the Manila Suburban Press Club at the Manila Press Club Building, December 27, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(1), 57-60.

New Year's Message of President Magsaysay

New Year's Message of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines

[Released on January 1, 1957]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

AS the old year gives way to the new, a sober appraisal of the world situation and its probable course for the days ahead evokes feelings of both gratitude and anxiety.

The world has had a different year, politically and economically. While the threat of atomic annihilation holds its uneasy balance, trouble spots continue to flare into conventional warfare, bringing us ever closer to major disaster. Meanwhile, the pressures of economic and political conflict grow sharper and are felt more widely.

In Hungary, the crushing weight of Communist tyranny has caused a brave people to choose death in a desperate struggle for freedom against a superior force. In the Middle East, bombs and gun-fire overshadow the less dramatic but more deadly paralysis of the world's vital economic life-line through the Suez. The far-reaching consequences of these developments are being demonstrated even now as a close neighbor faces the misery of civil war.

As a nation and as a people we have reason to be grateful. Our political institutions have shown their capacity to absorb the shock and pressures of world unrest. The defense and security policies we have pursued in concert with our allies of the free world have thus far averted the calamity of world war which we all dread. While we have felt the impact of rising world prices, we have succeeded in cushioning the effect of this trend upon the basic living standards of the majority of our people. At the same time we are pressing forward toward an economy of greater self-reliance.

We have reason to be proud of our showing in 1956, but we cannot ignore the danger signals of 1957. World events make us more than ever conscious of the priceless treasures of our freedom and our national identity, a treasure bought and paid for with the blood and lives of our heroes and martyrs. More than ever it is clear that the welfare of the individual cannot be separated from the welfare of the nation.

As the world nears fateful decisions, the months ahead will be months of difficulties in our national existence. We can weather these storms if we face them with unity of purpose and unity of action, if we elevate our citizenship to the highest plane of patriotism. We cannot afford less.

My New Year's message, therefore, is a very personal one: I appeal to every Filipino in every walk of life to pledge himself to the common cause of preserving our freedom and building our nation. I appeal to every Filipino to set aside personal interest and petty differences, to join with his fellow citizens in a program of constructive national effort. If united we can face the future with confidence and hope. I call for volunteers willing to prove with deeds that they merit the title of patriot. Let us during the coming year prove that we are worthy of the sacrifices of our fathers, and let us with God's help and guidance preserve for posterity the national heritage entrusted to us.

In this spirit, I wish each and everyone a very Happy New Year.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay's New Year's Message. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(2), 62-63.

**Speech of President Magsaysay at the opening ceremonies of the International Students' Festival Speech
of**

**His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines**

At the opening ceremonies of the International Students' Festival

[Delivered at the University of the Philippines, January 1, 1957]

PRESIDENT
DISTINGUISHED
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

VIRATA,
GUESTS,

IT is a pleasure for me to declare open this International Students' Festival.

In wishing its organizers and participants all the success their worthy project deserves, I am aware that this festival has in itself already one basic ingredient for success.

I understand that this event is essentially a festival of culture, where the students may absorb from the various exhibits, dances, films, and musical presentations some of the elements of the civilizations that exist beyond our shores.

Therein lies the festival's promise of success, for we are gathered here not to speak of the things that *divide* the minds of men but to contemplate the things that *unite* the spirits of men. Nothing binds men more securely than an understanding of each other's culture. Nothing opens the way more quickly to peace and world unity than the realization that all national cultures are based on universal foundations common to every civilization—faith in a Supreme Being and concepts of goodness, of truth, and of beauty based on this faith.

It is, therefore, a pleasure to note the truly international character of this festival. For if it is meant to broaden our views and widen the scope of our understanding of other peoples, then it is important that there should be represented here as many cultures of the world as possible.

This is of particular importance considering the fact that this is primarily a *students'* festival. Today when our people, particularly the young, are being offered varied interpretations of such concepts as love of country and independence, it is well that students themselves should organize a festival of this breadth and apply to their own concepts the broadness of view which is gained from understanding the cultures of other peoples.

For my countrymen who will reap the benefits of this festival, I have but one thought to add. I believe we in this country should be thankful that when we have a festival of this kind we need be motivated only by a desire to learn, to understand, and to be friendly. That is because we have here an atmosphere of freedom which is essential for an event of this nature to achieve its worthy ends. We need not submit our plans to some "Commissar of Culture" who would make sure that the aims and details of the festival would conform to the objectives of an exclusive political party. There is no party line to follow here. There is only the objective of peace and international cooperation.

May I therefore extend my congratulations to President Virata and to Dean Alejo and his committee of organizers, and my appreciation for the cooperation of the foreign missions and individuals towards the success of this festival.

In our search for world unity and peace, may we make use, more and more, of these tested avenues of cultural understanding through student initiative.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay at the opening ceremonies of the International Students' Festival, University of the Philippines, Monday, January 1, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(1), 61-62.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Philippine Chamber of Industries

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippine Chamber of Industries**

[Released on January 15, 1957]

INDUSTRIALISTS OF THE PHILIPPINES:

I AM very happy for this opportunity to discuss intimately with you some of the programs and policies of the government which are of particular interest to you.

Lately, there has been a good deal of discussion over the distribution of benefits in our economy. Importers are arrayed against export-producers, farmers against manufacturers, consumers against producers. In the same way that the false alternative between a rural and an industrial economy has been posed, false issues are raised pitting the interest of the export producer against that of the importer; the protection of the consumer against that of the producer; the welfare of the farmer against that of the manufacturer. These are false issues and false alternatives because all the elements of our economy are dependent on one another. And, as the saying goes, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

The farmer in the field is able to work his farm because the manufacturer and importer in the city keeps him supplied with the clothing, the tools, and the fertilizers which he needs. The manufacturer is able to carry on his business only because he is assured by the work of the farmer of the rice and vegetables which he needs to sustain him, of the export crop which earns the foreign exchange that buys machinery and other essential imports. We are all mutually dependent. No one is self-sufficient. And, therefore, the interest of one group must be the interest of every other. If there are problems which confront this country, all sectors of the nation must contribute their share to overcome those problems. Otherwise, all sectors will suffer.

Our present problem is to raise the standard of living of the general mass of our population, to create new sources of livelihood and provide productive employment for the large numbers of our people who are yearly reaching the age of employment, and to create an adequate domestic market. In attaining these objectives, the development of manufacturing is crucial and strategic.

It is inspiring to take note of our tremendous industrial progress over the years. As a measure of the growing strength and importance of the manufacturing sector of the economy, the volume of manufacturing in 1956 was fully 120 per cent higher compared to that of 1949. The contribution made by manufacturing to national income is accelerating at a fast rate. Income originating from manufacturing has gone up almost 75 per cent since 1949. More recently, the pace of industrialization has been stepped up. Between 1954 and 1955, the values added by manufacturing expanded by P120 million or 12.6 per cent.

In the tax-exempt sector alone, from a negligible number of 27 new firms organized in 1949, there has been a steady increase each year, until today we have about 580 new enterprises ranging from textile and drug firms to manufacturers of footwear, nails, and musical instruments. I am aware that a sizable portion of our manufacturing industries has been devoted largely to what is termed "packing industries". I have not been too happy about this. I would like to see the establishment of a more basic industry that would use and exploit to the maximum the abundant raw materials found in our country. Hand in hand with these developments, we find that in the three short

years of this administration, the total value of machinery imports has increased by more than 55 per cent, while imports of raw materials have reached the almost incredible figure of P1,700,000,000— (one billion, 700 million).

To the growth of local manufacturers is chiefly credited the encouraging downward trend noted in particular imports during the first nine months of 1956. Imports of textiles declined by P43 million compared to the first nine months of 1955. Construction materials and fixtures went down by P12 million. Local drug firms save the economy about P1 million in reduced value of imports during the same period. The heightened activity in the tobacco region and among our cigarette manufacturers brought about a P13 million decrease in imports of tobacco. Imports of coffee and cacao were lower by P2 million. While we imported P8.2 million worth of footwear in 1949, only P706 thousand was recorded by 1955.

All these manufacturing statistics translate themselves into the easily recognizable but little appreciated fact that the man on the street, from the shoes that he wears to the cigarette that he smokes, is consuming in greater and greater degree the products of his own countrymen.

But perhaps more than these simple statistics, what gives us hope for still more rapid progress in the years to come is the emergence of an active and dynamic group of Filipino industrialists who are eager, enthusiastic, and articulate in advocating increased investment in manufacturing and in leading the way towards the establishment of a growing number of industrial firms.

This group of industrialists, which is ably represented by this Chamber, promises to play a still larger role in the development of the nation's economy in the years to come. It shall be the task of the government to offer every reasonable assistance and encouragement to this group in all its worthy projects.

I should like to discuss with you some of the measures by which the government proposes to meet the problems of more rapid expansion in the field of manufacturing.

First, how to increase the resources for investment in manufacturing. Second, how to budget these resources in order to give emphasis to those industries which will make the maximum contribution to our economic development and provide a broader base for more rapid growth in the future.

The two main bottlenecks in the establishment of new manufacturing enterprises are apparently the storage of foreign exchange resources and the lack of adequate financing facilities. One of our main problems at present is precisely the shortage of foreign exchange to meet all the requirements of different groups in the economy. There are many essential consumer needs which must be met. Other industries have their own requirements. Government projects which are vital to the nation need materials which we must purchase abroad. Past obligations of the country must be honored.

Despite this situation, I think we can say that manufacturing enterprises have received a fairly substantial share of the nation's foreign exchange and, as far as was possible and reasonable, their capital and raw material requirements have been met.

The implementation of the reparations agreement with Japan opens up a promising new source of foreign exchange for the country. Private Filipino manufacturers will receive a substantial share in order to enable them to expand their capacities and establish new plants in those lines essential to rapid economic development. This is one windfall that our people should utilize to speed up our development processes. I have no delusions that the government can successfully operate the program without the continued support and assistance and suggestions of the business community, and especially of your group. The commercial loans which are available as a supplement to the reparations agreement, if used wisely, can provide added resources for industrial investments.

I understand, however, that in order for you to take advantage of these additional resources, you must have access to adequate financial facilities. Industrial projects require long-term capital which will be committed to fixed investments in plant and equipment. I am informed, furthermore, that one of the main difficulties of prospective investors in manufacturing enterprises in this country is the lack of facilities for mobilizing the type of capital which

participates fully in the risks of the project. Very little capital is available which can be committed for an indefinite period of time and which will earn returns only when the project themselves begin to earn profits.

This type of capital, in other more highly developed countries, is usually raised in the stock market. But our own stock market is at present still inadequate for this purpose.

Loans with appropriate maturities will be increasingly available both from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation and the Philippine National Bank for the medium and long term needs of agricultural and industrial undertakings.

I have directed these institutions to re-examine their policies and to suit their requirements to the financial needs of essential industries. The implementation of these measures will be undertaken immediately in order to meet the peso requirements of the annual reparations shipments.

Let us not, however, have any illusions. The small annual reparations payments, even the commercial loans we may be able to negotiate, will not mean the end of scarcity. Our foreign exchange resources will continue to be extremely limited relative to our needs. We must continue to be most sparing in their use. We must budget them even more carefully and use them in directions which will yield the nation the greatest returns.

There will continue to be a limit to the amount of credit which financial institutions can prudently supply. Together with our foreign exchange, our financial resources must be applied to those activities which will provide a broader base for more rapid economic growth in the future.

When resources must be allocated in this manner, it is impossible to avoid making judgments on the relative importance of different demands for those resources. In the past, these judgments were made separately by different government institutions. Last January, I issued a directive to the National Economic Council and the Central Bank to devise an integrated system of economic priorities to govern the extension of credit and allocation of dollars.

By September, these institutions had finished the system and we approved it last week at the Cabinet meeting. This formula of priorities is a useful tool developed to effect an orderly flow of resources into the most desirable forms of activity. It will make the allocation policies of the Central Bank with respect to foreign exchange, of different banks with respect to credit, and of other government institutions with respect to aids and subsidies, more objective and less subject to sudden revisions. An illustrative list of the investment projects which will receive high priority ratings will be made public and will provide you with a guide for your investment plans.

The formula, although complex in appearance, does no more than to give body to the relationship of each new project to all the national objectives that we have repeatedly announced. These objectives, namely, an increase in national income, an improvement in the balance of payments, and the more intensive utilization of domestic labor and materials, are woven into this formula and should eliminate to a great extent the possibility of error in the allocation of resources.

For many years while the nation builds up its capital facilities and steadily absorbs our population into employment streams, there is a great need for restraints in consumption. It would be both wise and generous on your part to use some of the windfalls that may come your way towards the enlargement of your physical plants and the strengthening of your capital structure, rather than on the obvious temptations that windfall incomes are so easily dissipated on. For its part, the government, in its management of the existing exchange resources of the country, as well as of windfall exchange receipts in prospect, such as reparations, will be guided by the same motives that I now express; namely, to divert ever-increasing amounts of expenditures into those items of a capital nature that shall establish the broad production base necessary to employ all our people.

There shall be no further extensions of government control to those fields of business where private capital has clearly demonstrated its willingness to invest and its ability to manage. However, I would like to exempt from this general rule those essential services like the railroad and the arrastre service, because I honestly believe that the general welfare would best be served if these devices remained in government control. I shall look with disfavor on all efforts to subject existing businesses to unfair competition from government. I shall fight any attempt to treat

lightly or to revoke, unless for the gravest cause, the various privileges of business that the government has given and that play a vital role in the security of your investments.

A pledge of the government must have lasting and unwavering acceptance else it loses all value and should not be given at all.

Such matters as franchises, certificates of tax exemption, licenses to exploit mineral resources, rights to the use of public lands, privileges to foreign exchange, whenever these are not fraudulently secured or abused against the public welfare, are considered as solemn commitments of the government. Upon these commitments private enterprise plans and flourishes. If the government and business are to be partners and are to operate together successfully, there can be no room for insincerity. For insincerity makes planning impossible.

I have discussed with you a few of the measures which the government has formulated in order to accelerate industrial investment. In all of them your response is vital and decisive. The government has plans and ambitions, but it has no illusions. The government can only provide the favorable climate for investments. It can only offer ready facilities to prospective investors. But in a free enterprise economy such as ours, you must provide the initiative. We realize that the success or failure of our programs will in the last analysis depend on your vision, on your sincerity, on the skill and the competence with which you engage in strategic investment projects. If you, the industrialists of the country, are truly men of enterprise and are sincere, aggressive, forward-looking, then we have no fear of failure. The government will fail only if private enterprise in the country fails to measure up to the nation's potential and to the economic needs of all its people.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay before the Philippine Chamber of Industries, January 15, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(2), 332-337.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the inauguration of the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Development Sub-Station
Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Development Sub-Station

[Delivered in Balintawak, January 19, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

IT is my pleasure this afternoon to dedicate to the service of the Filipino people the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Development, the first of a series of power projects proposed to be constructed by the National Power Corporation to harness the entire power potential of the Agno River in Luzon. The original planning for Ambuklao called for the restricted sale of its output to the Manila area, Baguio and the mines, and other large power consumers. This was designed to relieve the critical power situation in these areas at the time of the planning, and to minimize the capital investment required. As the construction of Ambuklao progressed, however, the power shortage in Manila and environs was alleviated with the installation of an additional thermal unit by the Manila Electric Company; so, in line with the Administration's policy to promote rural development, I have instructed the National Power Corporation to review and revise the allocation of Ambuklao power in the light of such policy. I am happy to announce that this reallocation has been made and that we have recently authorized a P10 million bond issue to finance the construction of additional transmission lines to make Ambuklao power available to areas in Central Luzon not otherwise considered under the original plan. These transmission lines will form the nucleus of a rural electrification network which the Administration is committed to expand as expeditiously as can be economically justified.

The equipment, materials, and supplies for these transmission lines are now being procured, and construction will start at an early date. Certain areas in La Union and Pangasinan will receive service from Ambuklao before the end of this year, and towns in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bataan, and Bulacan will be connected by next year.

We fully appreciate the role of electric power in our economic development. To this end, the Government has always considered the power program of the National Power Corporation of considerable import. It is our desire to develop the electric power industry of this country in cooperation with private interests, believing that such an arrangement would not prejudice the primary objective of making available cheap and dependable power to an increasing number of ultimate consumers.

We all know that the living standards of a people improve directly with the productive capacity or industrial development of the country, and that modern industrial development is directly dependent on electrical power. It is also recognized that the Philippines, compared with other more advanced countries, is woefully deficient in power capacity. Just before the war, the electric power generating capacity in the Philippines was 4.3 watts per capita, and energy availability was 13.6 kilowatt-hours per capita. Although as of the end of 1956 the generating capacity in the Philippines had increased over that of prewar by 310 percent, or 17.7 watts per capita, and the energy consumption is now 53.3 kilowatt-hours per capita, these figures fade into insignificance when compared with those of other countries. Their figures are 3,220 kilowatt-hours in the United States, 4,830 kilowatt-hours in Canada, 156 kilowatt-hours in Malaya, 625 kilowatt-hours in Japan, and 179 kilowatt-hours in Formosa. It is for this reason that the Government is giving every encouragement possible to the expansion of existing power facilities and the creation of new power sources, with the determined objective of making the maximum possible amount of power available at moderate cost. The completion of this Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant on the Agno River, with a capacity of 75,000 kilowatts, and the start of construction of the 100,000-kilowatt Biñga hydroelectric project immediately downstream of Ambuklao, are forceful steps in that direction. I am very pleased to note that industrial development in the Manila area and vicinity is growing at a very fast rate and that the growth of power requirements has been at the rate of 10 to 11 per cent annually. At this rate of growth, even with the availability of Ambuklao power, there will continue to be need for additional generating capacity to cope with the growing industrial demand. This need will be felt even before the Biñga hydroelectric project is completed in the latter part of 1959. Thus, the rising demand for power

makes the rapid development of our hydro resources very necessary, and to this goal the Administration is committed.

The role of cheap electricity in rapid industrialization is demonstrated vividly in the Maria Cristina area in Mindanao. There, where power can be generated in large blocks for a centavo or less per kilowatt-hour, it had been possible to establish industries, both private and governmental undertakings, such as the calcium carbide plant of Plant and the Nasco Steel Mill.

With respect to the distribution and retail sale of government-generated power, I feel that, to avoid economic waste and harmful duplication of facilities, existing distribution system, whether provincial, city, municipal, or private, should be employed cooperatively under controlled conditions for the retail of such government-generated power to the public. Power rates can and should be adequately controlled through the Public Service Commission, through evaluation surveys, and through close supervision of accounts, without direct competition by the Government with private utilities. I have once said, and I wish to reiterate here, that franchise, such as a franchise for sale and distribution of electric power, should be considered as solemn commitments of the Government. But I want to make just as clear that where these franchises are abused against the public welfare, where electric rates are unreasonably high, and where the public is mercilessly exploited, the Government should and will intervene, and if reduction of rates can be effected through means now available, it will take other measures to protect the people's welfare. Complaints are being received from all over the country against high rates and inefficient service. In areas where power is being provided partly or wholly by the National Power Corporation, savings accruing to the utility franchise holder through purchase of government-generated power should be shared with the ultimate consumer.

While the construction of hydroelectric plants will serve expanding industry, we should not lose sight of the other need—that of making available to the common man in the rural areas the comforts and conveniences that go with modern living. For this reason, the National Power Corporation has reserved a sizable portion of Ambuklao capacity for Central Luzon, particularly in rural areas. Rural electrification, as I envision it, is not confined to household lighting of isolated hamlets. It should include provision of power for small cottage industries, cooperative ventures, irrigation, and water pumps. I believe that in time we can, as has been done in other countries, make rural electrification both efficient and economically sound.

Studies are now being made on how to promote rural electrification without financial embarrassment to the National Power Corporation, which has to pay interest and amortization charges on sums spent in its projects. I am very hopeful that a workable formula will soon be evolved which will be the basis of an appropriate implementing legislation for presentation to Congress.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay at the inauguration of the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Development Sub-Station, Balintawak, Saturday afternoon, January 19, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(2), 337-340.

**Speech of President Magsaysay upon receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa Address
of**

**His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines**

Upon receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, from the University of the East

[Released on January 25, 1957]

I CONSIDER the honor just bestowed upon me by this institution one of the most cherished in my life. An academic conferment carries with it the full prestige of the awarding university. Regarding this award as a recognition of some merit in the work I have accomplished, I am firmly resolved to honor it in further meritorious performance. It is my hope to so continue in my endeavors as to be a worthy honorary alumnus of the University of the East I am deeply grateful to President Dalupan, to the members of the Academic Council and the Board of Trustees, and to the University as a whole.

This institution is in the midst of celebrating its Tenth Foundation Anniversary. May I therefore take the opportunity to congratulate all those who have contributed to its establishment and phenomenal growth. I understand that within a decade, it has reached the noteworthy position of being the university in our country with the second highest strictly collegiate enrollment. I am certain that, along with its growth in size, it has also grown in content.

That it has stimulated research is manifested in the publications of its leading scholars. That it has promoted scholarship is also evident in the performance of its alumni-Pioneering in educational philanthropy, the Alumni Association of this university has financed a study made by a government committee, organized at my direction, of the proper role of General Education in our schools and colleges. May I voice the hope that this university, my new Alma Mater, will continue to grow in stature and to honor its admirable pledge of eternal service to the youth, the country, and God.

I commend the university's choice of a theme for its celebration—"The University and Today's Problems." The re-examination of the university's relation with contemporary affairs has occupied the deepest thoughts and concern of serious scholars and thinkers from Cardinal Newman to Ignacio Villamor. Undoubtedly the greatest cultural instrument developed by man, the university can perform its principal functions only by squarely facing the problems of its own times.

During their long evolution from the Academy of Plato to the great institutions that they are today, universities have developed three broad and basic functions. They preserve the accumulated knowledge of man, teach that knowledge to the youth, and increase that knowledge through -study and research. Around these functions, the usual relation of the university and a country's problems naturally revolves.

Of these functions, the preservation of the cultural heritage is perhaps the least complex, since much of it is recorded in permanent form in the libraries and museums. Teaching this heritage to the youth calls for greater effort and admits of more latitude. For out of a country's young men and women the universities must train the good citizens, the technicians, the professionals, the thinkers, and the leaders. Many of those who are graduated by the universities are eventually the teachers who themselves compose the faculties of the schools and colleges. The country's entire education is therefore shaped by the universities. And since the character of a people is determined by the character of their education, it can be said that the universities mould the nation.

While the university directly trains the youth, its scientists, writers, and scholars directly and indirectly help to elevate the national life. Their individual studies and researchers are essential to progress. Their pure research may result in a mathematical formula which in turn may lead to the discovery of atomic energy. Their applied research, either for the government or for private industry, may produce the cure for a dread disease or perfect a new weapon for the Armed Forces.

The writings and pronouncements of savants like Toynbee or Conant directly influence public opinion which in turn shapes the national life, including its public administration. In many instances, scholars themselves are mustered into government service as theoreticians, planners, or administrators. In our government, we have many university men in technical, advisory, and executive positions.

This relationship between the university and contemporary problems is immemorial. As early as 1224, the University of Naples was established by Emperor Frederick II expressly to train men for service in his administration. At about the same time medicine also became a university discipline in the University of Montpellier. Since then, the university's functions and activities have expanded in all directions. But the beneficiaries in increasing measure have been and are still the youth, the government and, the country.

And in all its history, the university has been a more effective influence in education, public service, and general advancement if it enjoys academic freedom. Freedom of the mind, of which the university is the chief guardian, is the basic condition for human progress.

The traditional functions of the university will continue to be valid perhaps for all time. But on this memorable occasion marking the first decade of this university, I should like to suggest that it is high time for our universities to adjust their attitudes and functions to our country's more basic contemporary needs. Instead of drawing their inspiration completely or mainly from the past and from accumulated knowledge, they should also address themselves to the problems of contemporary life and help discover their solutions. Specifically, I have in mind what perhaps is a natural but serious problem of a young, growing democracy like ours—the full recognition of democratic freedom on the other hand.

Perhaps I can make my point clear by comparing the civic picture of the American Republic during its formative years to the typical civic picture of contemporary life in our young democracy.

Reporting on his observations in the United States in 1830, the French Sociologist, Alexis Tocqueville, wrote as follows:

“These Americans are the most peculiar people in the world. You'll not believe it when I tell you how they behave. In a local community in their country, a citizen may conceive of some need which is not being met. What does he do? He goes across the street and discusses it with his neighbor. Then what happens? A committee comes into existence and then the committee begins functioning in behalf of that need. And, you won't believe this but it is true. All of this is done without reference to any bureaucrat. All of this is done by the private citizens on their own initiative.”

In this simple fact of early American life lies, I think, the germ of the American nation's greatness. That germ is the spirit of self-reliance, the virtue of doing what is needful, the understanding and use of freedom as the necessary atmosphere for wise initiative and civic responsibility.

What is the corresponding picture in our country? When a Filipino believes that some need is not being met, he most likely dashes an indignant letter to the newspapers or rushes up a platform to make a speech. It seldom occurs to him that, as a member of his community or a part of his nation, he might, like the early Americans, initiate or take part directly in the effort necessary to meet the need.

The use of the freedom of expression, orally or in writing even only for its own sake, is of course a legitimate activity of democratic citizens. But I venture to state that its use in this manner should only be the beginning and not the end, the early stage but not the final consummation of civic conscience and responsibility.

There are pleasant exceptions. The wonderful international assistance given to needy Vietnam under “Operation Brotherhood,” a laudable project initiated by the Jaycees of the Philippines and accorded world-wide praise, is one of them. If we could promote an “Operation Brotherhood” in every city, every town, and every barrio in our country, we should surely be on the way to national greatness and happiness.

I feel that, as a young democracy, we have reached the turning point where we have more or less completed the process of familiarizing ourselves with the rights of free citizens, and are therefore ready to enter upon the next and final stage, that of acquiring the sense of responsibility commensurate with our rights. In this new task, the early Americans and our own Jaycees can teach us a useful lesson. That lesson is the need and wisdom of exercising initiative, self-help, and constructive action. In the cultivation of these indispensable civic virtues, the schools and universities are the ideal means.

Up to now, in teaching civics and government, the schools and colleges, followed by other instructive agencies, have emphasized individual rights. The school children, the university students, the newspaper readers, the radio listeners, and the television viewers have been told over and over again that they possess individual rights guaranteed to them in no less than 21 paragraphs of our Constitution. This has been a logical beginning, to be sure, for our people are new to the ways of freedom. Having once been colonial subjects, their first training in democracy has logically been in the proper awareness of their essential rights as free citizens.

But once a people have learned their rights they face at first the new danger of displaying them for their own sake or exercising them to excess, thus converting liberty into license. To avoid disaster at this point, the people must also learn and practice the duty and responsibility that go with rights.

One of the most universally demanded rights is the right to equal opportunity. Equal opportunity is, of course, an indispensable condition of democracy. Without equal opportunity the world would never have seen an Abraham Lincoln, a Jose Rizal, or a Manuel Quezon. Without equal opportunity the poor boy or girl can never hope to improve his lot economically, socially, and intellectually. It would not be possible for every Filipino boy, as it is natural for every American boy, to believe that he can be president of his country.

The greatest means of equalizing opportunity happens to be the schools and colleges. Under the system of universal education now prevalent in all civilized countries, every pupil has the opportunity to obtain an education. In school, each child advances or remains behind according to his own merits. If the opportunity to enter school is supplemented by the grant of school and college scholarships for the poor but talented, educational opportunity is equalized up to the very highest level. Even so, the equality of opportunity is not and should not be the be-all and end-all of democracy.

So that the blessings of equal opportunity may benefit not only the individual but also his fellow men and the country, those who enjoy equal opportunity must also accept and practice equal responsibility. The citizens of a democracy are severally and jointly responsible for the welfare of their fellow citizens, of their communities, and of their nation. This is the spirit which, as revealed by De Tocqueville, built America to greatness.

The citizen enjoys the freedom of expression so that he may not only criticize but also praise, so that he may not only point to others the solution of public problems or the way to meet a public need but he may himself also feel responsible for the solution and the need. A democracy insures to its citizens a climate of freedom not for the sake of freedom itself, but so that they may develop initiative, self-reliance, self-help, and constructive action. Freedom is justified only by its proper use.

Freedom for its own sake alone is empty. Only when a people have given substance to their freedom may their democracy be considered to have reached full bloom. In the words of President Wilson, freedom is not a thing that can be given because it is a form of character and not a form of constitution. It is up to us to make for our independence more than a name; it is our task to develop it to fullness and maturity.

With the new understanding and use of freedom, life in our country will improve in every respect. Feeling equal responsibility for our ills, we shall individually and collectively strive to discover their cures. Instead of working at cross purposes, we shall help each other.

Thus, in the matter of employment for example, we shall all of us try to create jobs for ourselves and for others who need them. Instead of one sector of our economy castigating another sector for whatever shortcomings there may be in our agricultural and industrial development, in our trade and in our controls, we shall face these problems

squarely together, not only in terms of our own interests but with a full understanding and respect of the interests of others and of the whole nation. Instead of debating and quarreling over the various difficulties that naturally confront a growing and advancing nation from time to time, we shall be guided by the spirit of equal responsibility and meet and solve them with understanding and cooperation.

This then is the message I should like to leave to our schools and universities: You must round out your teaching so as to balance freedom with self-help, equal opportunity with equal responsibility. The concept of freedom includes the obligation to act; the doctrine of equal opportunity carries with it the corollary doctrine of equal responsibility. Such a balanced democratic teaching and training will give maturity and completeness to our democracy.

Our citizens have already acquired the proper awareness of their rights. They must now be aroused to an awareness of their responsibilities. The present Administration, in its comprehensive program of rural development, has already begun to inculcate among the masses the doctrine of self-help based on the concept of freedom and equal responsibility. The about 75 per cent of our population living in the rural areas are being awakened from the lethargy of ages in order to make use of their freedom in a practical way for the enrichment of their own lives through self-help and community cooperation.

But the schools, colleges, and universities must do their part. They must make the doctrine of equal responsibility a part of the education of the people as a whole, including the future teachers, professionals, businessmen, scientists, thinkers, public officials, and leaders. University teachers, scholars, authors, and leaders must propagate it, for when our democracy has reached that stage of development in which our people instinctively couple duties with rights and responsibility with opportunity, we shall be certain that they have earned their happiness and our Republic has a rendezvous with greatness.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay upon receiving the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, from the University of the East, Friday afternoon, January 25, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(2), 340-346.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the B.W.A.P. Annual Awards

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the B.W.A.P. Annual Awards

[Delivered at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, February 7, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM happy once again to greet the Business Writers Association of the Philippines and the outstanding members of our business community whom you have chosen to honor on this annual occasion. To the honorees I wish to express my congratulations for having won awards in a highly competitive field, and my thanks for the significant contribution to our economic development which they have made in qualifying for such distinction. In this connection my thanks go also to the Business Writers Association for providing this additional incentive to economic growth.

Last year I appeared before you and reported on the economic problems confronting our nation as well as on the plans and measures which your Government was applying toward their solution. At that time I pointed out that the Administration was maintaining an economic policy consistent with its original program which I enunciated upon my taking office. You were assured, however, that this consistency did not preclude continuing revision and adjustment to meet the changing circumstances, both domestic and global. My remarks then also included in broad terms the objectives of our policy and the means by which we hoped to achieve them.

Last week in a message on the state of the nation to a joint session of our Congress I reported on the effect of these policies in terms of progress toward national economic goals. Since this message was given widest currency and was the subject of considerable editorial comment, I shall not take the time now to repeat any of its details.

You will recall, however, two significant aspects of the message: One was that it dealt with facts and figures carefully compiled from the records of the Government and other agencies—records open to public scrutiny, and not subject to doubt as to their substantial accuracy. The second significant point was that these facts and figures without exception indicated solid and substantial progress in all major areas of our economic life. In some cases our gains exceeded our expectations. In others, we fell somewhat short of our hopes. In all instances, however, it was manifest that we were headed in the right direction—that our goals and policies were basically sound. On the other hand it was duly pointed out to the Congress—and it bears repetition here tonight—that we still have a long way to go, that we must be ready to cope with unpredictable external influences, and that, in short, there is no justification for complacency or relaxation of effort.

This brings us to a problem which you, the business writers, can do much to solve, or at least minimize. This is an election year, and until next November the game of politics I am afraid, will play a dominant role in our national life. Realistically, we must resign ourselves to this situation, however much we regret it. But this does not mean that we should not do everything possible to minimize its harmful effect. I have in mind particularly the well known fact that campaign oratory has been known to be somewhat careless in matters of truth and accuracy. For example, it is gratifying to know that most comments on the state-of-the-nation message noted with approval the fact that it was sober and factual, and based upon the public record. Those who differed with this opinion for political reasons, however, seemed to be most resentful that the statistics did not coincide with the gloomy picture they had been so eager to impress upon the public mind.

I do not expect this Administration to be spared from criticism in this election campaign. I do not even expect such criticisms will necessarily be supported by reasonable evidence. However, it is a matter of concern to every one of us that in the excitement of the political contest care be taken that there be no real injury to the national interest, to the morale of our people, to their institutions.

On this point I ask your cooperation and service to the community. By sober and objective reporting you can maintain the balance of accuracy between the situation as it really exists and the picture that is painted for us in the political arena. This does not mean that you will yourselves refrain from criticism when you feel it is honestly justified. I ask only that you serve your reading public by providing a balanced diet of fact and opinion, each clearly identified as such, together with pertinent background.

Let me illustrate with one of our major economic problems—unemployment. In the first place it is unrealistic to use the expression “solve the unemployment problem” because unemployment is a part of the total economic problem. The number of jobs which government itself can provide is extremely limited. What government *can* do, *is* doing, and must *continue* to do, is foster and stimulate the increased private economic enterprise which will absorb our manpower resources. We must also avoid the use of loose and misleading generalities. For some time we tolerated such expressions as “millions of unemployed.” Recently, a scientific and painstaking employment survey revealed that our unemployed and unemployables down to such an age categories as ten years numbered a little over one million. When it is further remembered that population growth steadily augments the size of our labor force, even prevention of increased unemployment means that considerable new jobs have been created.

For another example of loose talk and loose thinking, you might examine the subject of rising prices. It must be borne in mind that we do not exist in an economic vacuum. Being still dependent for so many of our needs on imports, it is obviously impossible for us to escape the price fluctuations of the countries which supply us. You are all aware that prices have been steadily rising throughout the world. In fact, in some instances it can be shown that some of our commodity prices have been kept below the rate of increase in the exporting country. From these illustrations you will see how important it is, in considering any given topic, that we have all the available facts.

There is another point I would like to dwell on this evening. In the past some of my critics have charged me with being impetuous and impulsive. It seems strange, therefore, that I must now be the one to urge caution, the one to insist that we “make haste slowly.” In charting our economic course there are two approaches: one is to devise and try out new and experimental economic theories; the other is to draw upon the costly experience of others, carefully choosing what seems best adapted to our needs. This Administration has chosen the latter course. We consider it our responsibility to exercise the greatest possible caution where an error of judgment might mean the most widespread privation and misery, and even the end of our existence as an independent nation.

At the risk of being charged with the crime of having read a book, I should like to quote from a recent study entitled *An International Economy*, written by Gunnar Myrdal. Mr. Myrdal formerly was minister of commerce in Sweden. Today he is executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. He is recognized everywhere as an economist of international stature. This is what Mr. Myrdal has to say, and I quote:

“In most underdeveloped countries, improvement of productivity in agriculture is an essential precondition for industrialization. The expansion of employment, absorbing those previously unemployed or underemployed, and the relatively higher wages paid to industrial workers—one of the essential results to be gained by industrialization and, in fact, a necessary inducement for workers to move out of agriculture—will cause a rise in total demand; since absolute incomes will remain low, this will mainly express itself in a higher demand for food. At the same time, this development process will also involve somewhat rising income demands in agriculture and, in particular, a higher level of food consumption. With the tight foreign exchange situation in which these countries ordinarily find themselves, if they are pushing on with industrial development, the only way of avoiding inflation is a substantial increase in total agricultural production, allowing an increasing proportion of it to be supplied to the non-agricultural population. In addition, if there is not an expanding market among the agricultural population, created by the purchasing power they acquire by their greater sales of agricultural produce to the towns, industry will not have the growing market it needs to go on expanding.”

Continuing, Mr. Myrdal says:

“In Italy and in Southern Europe generally, low productivity in agriculture is a main limiting factor to all attempts to push ahead with industrialization. In Latin America several countries have been hampered in their economic development because it has been too confined to the growth of a few modern cities and some islands of industry,

leaving agriculture, and thus the main part of the economy, in decay and backwardness. This had undoubtedly been one of the main causes of the constant pressure of internal inflation and also of the foreign exchange difficulties.

“A third important reason for giving agriculture a high priority in the development plans of every underdeveloped country is that only thereby can the integration process be given that solid start at the ‘grass roots’ which is required if it is to take the form of a steady, peaceful, but rapidly accelerating social growth. A large literature, devoted to this problem of community development . . . is already beginning to appear.”

For the benefit of those who look west of the Philippines for guidance, I might also quote Mr. Nehru, who says:

“Industrial expansion without agricultural reorganization will leave the bulk of the people in a state of poverty. . . . In other words, we can plan against mass poverty only if we set out to create the conditions of a rapidly expanding and efficient economy both in agriculture and industry.”

The foregoing thoughts were written in 1956. As early as 1953, and consistently since, I have expressed these ideas as my economic philosophy and as the economic policy of this Administration. I have no reason to doubt their validity at this time.

You all know by now that in these policies I see agriculture and industry and commerce as complements of a balanced economy. You all know, likewise, that in these policies I see private enterprise and initiative as the major motive force.

In the development of a free economy, government can set the stage. Government can prepare the way and create the climate. Government can stimulate and encourage, but only private enterprise has the flexibility and vigor to carry out the massive effort required for real growth.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay’s speech at the B.W.A.P. Annual Awards, Thursday evening, February 7, 1957, at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(3), 603-606.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Fourth National Congress of the Sugar Industry

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines Before the Fourth National Congress of the Sugar Industry

[Delivered at the Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, February 26, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM deeply grateful for the opportunity that you have extended to me to say a few words on this occasion. You represent an industry that ranks as one of the top contributors to the national wealth and to the support of the government. It is therefore gratifying to us who are in the government to be able to greet you as you commence your deliberations on matters affecting your common problems.

Since you called on me last year after the conclusion of your annual convention, I have given much thought to the subject of the sugar industry—its problems, its needs, its possibilities, its magnitude, and the role that it could and should play in the huge task of developing and stabilizing our national economy. It has been my desire to better appreciate the problems affecting the industry and to weigh with proper care the merits of proposals that may be presented to the government for their solution.

Thus, I have learned of the beginnings of the industry, from the old days of the small sugar cane farms with the primitive muscovado mills until now. As a result of collective effort and the introduction of free trade between the United States and the Philippines a half century ago, these modest beginnings gradually developed into extensive economic units, through the construction of modern sugar mills to which a number of plantations were connected under a cooperative relationship that became the binding force to progressive action. I have learned of the magnitude of the investment in capital and in human effort that both sectors of the industry—the sugar cane producers and the manufacturers of sugar—have put into this huge enterprise. I have learned of the sleepless nights that must have been spent by the pioneers of the industry, not so much in the actual production of sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar, as in the evolution of human relationships of mutual understanding and helpfulness which are an essential requirement for success in every cooperative enterprise.

You have had your ups and downs in this great venture, of course. Sixteen years after the establishment of the first sugar central, during the 1933–1934 crop year, the industry reached its record crop of 1,598,000 short tons. The following year it suffered a major set-back with the passage of the Sugar Limitation Act. But the greatest blow to your hopes and your fortunes must have been the ravages of the last war, from which it took you so many years to regain your pre-war productive capacity, through large fresh outlays of capital and effort in order to rehabilitate plantations and mills. Of the 45 sugar mills in operation before the war, which were serving that same number of integrated areas of sugar lands, only 25 sugar centrals were actually rehabilitated and placed in operation. These were made to serve substantially the same aggregate area embraced by the 45 mills before the war. But again the industry has demonstrated its strength and determination by the rapid growth of its post-war production.

Starting from a crop of hardly 84,000 short tons, only eight years later it had increased production 12 times over to 1,311,841 short tons. This output exceeded the aggregate sum of the quota for domestic consumption and the exportable quotas to the United States and to the other markets of the world. However, it was not until the following crop year, 1954–1955, the ninth after liberation, that the industry reached its post-war peak production of 1,404,633 short tons of sugar, thus exceeding by over 200,000 short tons the marketable quota for the industry for that year. Through adjustments voluntarily made in your program of crop production, this huge quantity of non-marketable sugar has now been reduced to less than the reserve quota permitted by law. Even now the industry must be considering ways and means as to how to take advantage of the recent suspension of the quantitative limitations in the marketing of world sugar under the International Sugar Agreement, which has resulted in the favorable rise of prices in the free markets of the World.

With your indulgence, I have gone into all these details, although these already are more familiar to you, because I want you to feel that in considering questions pertaining to your industry, I am in a position to review the whole situation with the fullest sympathy, in justice to your admirable record as progressive farmers, businessmen, and industrialists. Through your initiative, your skill and industry, and your vision and determination, the sugar industry has attained its present noteworthy position as one of the leading industries of the country in point of organization, development, and utility to the nation. You can therefore rest assured of the continued cooperation of the Administration in your efforts to promote the best interest of the industry. Of course there may be instances where, in spite of your sympathy and belief that a certain course of action would be beneficial to the particular interest of an industry, still, because of its wide implications, we may be forced to set it aside for the sake of the larger interest of the country as a whole. In this event the government has no other recourse but to weigh the respective merits of each side of the question, and to follow that course of action which is not inimical or injurious to the general welfare and which would ultimately result in the greatest good to the largest number of our people.

Fortunately, sugar is a world commodity which always finds acceptance in all markets of the world. In the case of Philippine sugar, there is the distinct advantage of a protected market in the United States for more than three quarters of our present production. So far, Philippine sugar sold in this market has given adequate returns to the industry. However, the industry has a greater capacity for production, and in order to withstand the uncertainties of the future, it should aspire to attain its maximum productivity, and thus achieve greater returns and at the same time reduce the unit cost of production. In your efforts in this direction, you can count on the fullest sympathy and encouragement from your government. But what should we do with additional sugar so produced? Other favorable markets would be the ready answer, and I am confident that this convention will give this matter its most serious consideration.

I would like to suggest, however, that perhaps we are overlooking or are not giving enough importance to one of the most convenient and practical outlets for any increase in our sugar production. As a layman, I cannot yet understand why after all these years of supplying the United States with our share of its domestic requirement, our domestic consumption quota is still pegged to such a low figure as 220,000 short tons. This is difficult to understand, considering the number of our population which can easily absorb a much larger quantity, if such sugar were made available to them at a reasonable price. You can see that 220,000 short tons of sugar, divided among 22 million inhabitants, means a share of only 20 pounds of sugar a year for each inhabitant. Twenty pounds of sugar distributed over a period of 365 days would mean a daily consumption of less than an ounce of sugar a day for each individual. This is way below what an individual can normally consume. The only explanation for this state of affairs seems to be that the sugar that we produce does not reach the great mass of our population today. In all probability, sugar is available only to a very small fraction of our population since, if we were to give every individual his normal daily sugar requirement, we would have to more than double the quota for domestic consumption today. There must be something fundamentally wrong in the distribution of this commodity within the Philippines. I earnestly request you to give this matter your very serious consideration.

Then, too, the present statistical position of sugar in the world has now given rise to the suspension of the quantitative limitation provision in the London International Agreement, and at the same time has increased the world price of sugar. So I am truly hopeful that in your deliberations this year you will reach decisions of far-reaching effects which will redound not only to your own benefit but also to the benefit of the entire nation.

I have already announced the determination of the Administration to intensify its campaign for increased production in all sectors of our economy. I urge you to lend a helping hand to this campaign not only in the field of increased sugar production, but also in the production of other commodities, whether agricultural or industrial. Your experience and your proven ability in the promotion of the sugar industry, if applied to other enterprises, will contribute very much to the success of our campaign for increased and diversified productions. I feel that it is not asking too much of you to do this, because your investment in diversified activities will eventually result not only in your own benefit but also in the well-being of your children in the future.

I wish to congratulate you again for your getting together periodically for a full discussion of your problems, and to assure you again of my deep interest in the success of your mission and of my desire to be of as much help as it is in my power to help you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay before the Fourth National Congress of the Sugar Industry, Winter Garden, Manila Hotel, February 26, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(5), 1399-1402.

Speech of President Magsaysay on the 11th annual installation of officers and fellowship luncheon of the Pangasinan Medical Society

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Pangasinan Medical Society on the 11th Annual Installation of Officers and Fellowship Luncheon**

[Delivered at the Vicar Skyroom, Dagupan City, March 9, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

I AM very happy to be here with you this noon on the occasion of the induction of your new officers. I hope that more professional organizations like this one will be established in the provinces. I have nothing against national organizations or Manila organizations; they have their own uses. But it is only smaller provincial units which can give the professional or practitioner a more intimate appreciation of his work and of the people he serves. Besides, it is high time that the provinces and towns and barrios of this country come into their own as self-reliant units, instead of depending forever on direction and supervision from Manila. This is in keeping with the Government's program of building up the towns and barrios, of helping them to develop into strong economic and social units.

I feel a special satisfaction in being with this particular group. I have heard of the unselfish and patriotic work that many of you are doing in extending medical aid and services free of charge to the indigent people of your province. You are, through your own initiative, supplementing the Government's efforts in this field. I wish that other medical organizations throughout the country would emulate your splendid example.

This project of yours springs from a quality of the mind and the heart which, I am afraid, many of our more fortunate countrymen have forsaken. This quality is a sense of your responsibility, your obligation to those who are less favored. During the height of the Huk crisis, when our more substantial countrymen realized that they were imminently threatened with the loss of their properties, their careers, and in many cases their very lives, they acknowledged the need of improving the living conditions of the unhappy masses as the only effective way of coping with the danger. The landlords were for land reforms; the employers were for higher wages and better living conditions for their laborers; the wealthy were for better opportunities for the poor. Fortunately, the danger has since passed, but unfortunately some of those same citizens who had acquired the gift of enlightenment in a period of crisis have lost it and have lapsed back to the old ways of selfishness and greed which had initially given rise to that very crisis.

I am happy to note the physicians of this province have not yet yielded to this temptation. I am happy to know that you continue to accept your responsibilities and obligations to our more unfortunate countrymen. Certainly, principles that are valid in time of danger should remain just as valid in time of comparative security. The challenge to help ameliorate the living conditions of the masses of our people is a continuing one.

I feel, therefore, no need to defend before this gathering the public health program of the Administration, which has been criticized by some as an encroachment on the legitimate sphere of activity of private practitioners. By providing health services and facilities to citizens, the Government is not engaging in competition with private physicians, for the simple reason that the Government's free activities are meant only for those who are unable to engage private medical care. I am sure that those among you who are undertaking humanitarian work among indigents do not feel that they are competing with themselves. It is the same with the Government's public health program.

The Government is, in fact, helping your practice by stimulating among our rural masses an awareness of the need and benefits of medical care. As the Government's rural development program gains momentum and expands in scope, many more of our countrymen in the rural areas will be enjoying higher incomes and better standards of

living. They constitute your potential clientele. From free patients they will in time become paying patients endowed with an appreciation of the need of medical care.

This, then is the stake that you—and besides you, our lawyers, engineers, architects, and other professionals—have in the success of the rural development program. Nothing is more false than the accusation that the Government's special concern for the masses discriminates against other classes of our society, including the professionals. You know that one reason so many of our graduates and professionals choose to remain in Manila and the big cities rather than return to their native towns and barrios is the complaint that the opportunities for profitable practice are limited in the villages. This is true only for as long as our masses do not enjoy the prospect of economic betterment. But such is no longer the case, and as their incomes and standards of living improve, the opportunities for profitable activities by our professionals will proportionately grow. You can see, therefore, that it is to your own interest and to your own benefit that the rural development program should succeed.

Once again, I wish to say that I am proud of the sense of social consciousness and responsibility shown by those among you who are giving freely of their time and effort in order to help our less fortunate countrymen. As long as our more favoured classes are imbued with this spirit, we need not fear a resurgence of the danger which nearly engulfed us all only a few years ago. May your tribe increase.

I wish to congratulate your new officers and wish them success.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay's speech before the Pangasinan Medical Society on the 11th Annual Installation of Officers and Fellowship Luncheon, March 9, 1957, at the Vicar Skyroom, Dagupan City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1737-1739.

Speech of President Magsaysay before the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Convention

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Convention**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Park Recreation Hall, March 15, 1957]

MY FRIENDS IN THE COCONUT INDUSTRY,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THIS CONVENTION:

I AM happy to greet you on the opening day of your fifth convention. And I am heartened by your display of unity which augurs well for the whole coconut industry.

I want to discuss with you today our joint responsibility—yours as well as mine—in the promotion of our people's welfare. Likewise I also want to report to you the actions we have taken on the complaints you have brought to my attention during the last year.

Because of the phenomenal growth of the coconut industry which you represent, you have now assumed a greater share of the burden of charting our economic destiny. As industry that has 165 million coconut trees planted in one fifth of our cultivated land area, earning \$100 million a year or 40 per cent of our dollar reserves, employing or sustaining eight million Filipinos in 33 primary producing provinces, must indeed play a vital and decisive role in any program of economic development.

Today, as a result of your combined efforts, the Philippines is the world's biggest producer of coconuts and coconut products. We should be spurred to even better this record because of the increased demands for coconut products here and abroad.

The more I think of your potentialities and the tremendous force that you wield toward the formation of sound and viable economy, the more I consider this convention of coconut producers of utmost importance.

You cannot afford to slide back. Our population is increasing daily and as a result our economic problems are becoming more acute and varied each day. You must therefore work with renewed vigor.

For my part, I pledge that the Administration will continue to give every available assistance to the coconut industry that it may consolidate its position in the overall national economic scheme. We shall continue to approve steps recommended by Congress to organize the promotion of the industry.

The Philippine Coconut Administration was established in 1954. Two laws have already been passed; namely, Republic Act 1369 which authorized a P30-million bond issue for coconut industrialization and Republic Act 1365, which is intended to curb unfair trading practices.

These are but the first measures designed to place the industry in a position of stability and improve product standardization, marketing, development, and research.

Late last year, to implement the industrialization program envisioned by Republic Act 1369, PHILCOA presented a plan which called for the construction of small copra centrals in rural areas primarily to manufacture high quality copra.

The plan appeared feasible and I endorsed it to the National Economic Council. However, when I was informed of the Hiller process for extracting oil and flour directly from fresh coconut meat, I ordered the suspension of the initial release of the bond issue.

I thought then, as I am convinced now after the successful trial runs in San Pablo City, the Hiller process and machine would be an effective tool in making our country a major supplier of finished coconut products instead of raw materials. This decision has now been justified by the initial experiments which have placed our country far ahead of our competitors in this line.

Upon the successful completion of the research and the perfection of the Hiller machine, there is every reason to expect that in due time we will have more material returns from our coconut and our people will be assured of more labor opportunities.

We have definitely broken away from the antiquated methods of production in oil extraction.

Lack of credit facilities for our agricultural enterprises has also been mentioned as a major stumbling block in our economic progress. This is more evident in the coconut producing areas which are composed of scattered small holdings throughout the country.

Inasmuch as the coconut industry has been suffering from a deplorable lack of credit facilities, which has placed the financing system in the hands of the middlemen themselves to the detriment of the producers, I am endorsing the Laurel-Guinto bill which would provide rural banks for the coconut industry. I strongly feel that more credit facilities for the industry are indeed imperative for increased production and for easing the burdens of long-range planning.

I have been keeping a keen eye on your industry and its problems. Last year after your convention, you complained that no one from the coconut industry was ever appointed to the governing bodies of our credit institutions despite your repeated petitions to previous administrations.

That was a year ago. Today, I am happy to inform you that upon the recommendation of your Federation directorate, your vice-president for Mindanao, Atty. Benjamin V. Guiang, has just been elected to the Board of Directors of the Philippine National Bank.

Last month, your Board of Directors also presented to me your complaint that the 7 per cent processing tax would result in hardships particularly to the small planter. As it is not within my power to suspend the effectivity of this levy on agricultural products, I have instructed the Secretary of Finance to prepare an amendment to repeal this particular provision of the law to enable those engaged in agriculture to dedicate themselves to production without the burden of high taxes.

I am glad to know that there has been close collaboration between your Federation and the Philippine Coconut Administration. This government arm for promoting the industry was established a little over two years ago to solve the problems of the industry on a permanent basis. Necessarily the solution of these problems is mostly long range in character. The mandate of the PHILCOA charter does not permit it to engage in trading, and most of its work as a service agency— like the improvement of our copra, price stabilization, and research work—are intangible and cannot be fully appraised as visible, physical achievements.

The problems of such vast industry like the coconut demand consideration of all its inter-locking problems to benefit all sections of the industry throughout the islands for its steady and permanent growth. I am glad to note that the present management of the PHILCOA has pursued this policy as ordained by law.

As a result of the work of your Federation, the organization of the coconut industry is now becoming an accomplished fact. The realization of coconut men that they can do things effectively only when they do it together is the most salutary development that has occurred in this enterprise. It was for this reason that I did not hesitate in

approving a resolution of the board of administrators of PHILCOA in releasing the sum of P100,000 to help the Federation in forming coconut cooperatives.

Under these auspicious days, gentlemen, I fully share your hopes on the future of the coconut industry and the role it can play in our economic planning. We have here an enterprise that is flexible enough to lend itself to the demands of both our domestic and the foreign markets. Increased uses of coconut by-products offer new horizons for our people. In an old and established industry like the coconut we have the nucleus for developing many new side enterprises that will be a boon to our people in the rural areas.

My friends, I trust that after your consultations and deliberations you can guide me further in working toward the realization of our desire to make our coconut industry continue to grow and prosper for the good of all Filipinos.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay's speech before the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Convention at the Malacañang Park Recreation Hall, Friday morning, March 15, 1957. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1739-1742.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Kick-off Ceremonies launching the Fund Drive for the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission, March 15, 1957

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Kick-off Ceremonies launching the Fund Drive for the Jose Rizal National Centennial Commission**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, March 15, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

WE are met today to inaugurate the fund drive for the Rizal Centennial Commission. We are investing the event with fitting solemnity because it means so much to all of us. It is the historic privilege of our generation to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Jose Rizal. It is our good fortune to render in a special manner in our time the tribute which we owe to his greatness, to prove our loyalty to his memory, to express our faith in him. It is our duty and privilege to communicate to those who come after us the loftiest spiritual values of the legacy he left to our race.

As beneficiaries of his sacrifice, we are called upon—all of us—to contribute generously of our resources and our energies so that the celebration we shall hold four years from now may be worthy of the stature we accord to Rizal in the life of our nation. Let it not be said of us that we are lacking in the veneration which other peoples render lesser men. Let us make the centennial of Rizal's birth truly a national event, with every Filipino giving his share of the fund until the amount of ten million pesos required for this grand event has been raised.

In countries under the heel of the Communist tyrant, projects like the one we inaugurate today are insured against failure by resort to compulsion and coercion. But success thus achieved is of course hollow and empty. In our democracy, these enslaving methods have no place. United to Rizal in his love of freedom, inspired by his dedication to the well-being of our Motherland, and encouraged by his faith in our capacity for greatness as a people, we shall, I am sure, respond freely and heartfully to the present appeal to our generosity and to our patriotism.

I ask everyone to support this drive. It is my privilege to start it off with my personal contribution.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Carlos

Speech of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the Commencement Exercises of the University of the San Carlos

[Delivered in Cebu City, March 16, 1957]

I AM happy to have this opportunity to address you tonight, you the students of San Carlos University. It has always been for me a refreshing experience to be among the youth—perhaps because I am not so old myself, although in the past few years I might have put on a few grey hairs. But I think the real reason is that I like to speak straight from the shoulder, to be direct and to go straight to the point. And this is a quality that I find also in most young people.

There is a certain impatience in youth which is really nothing” more than their energy eager to be put to use. Young people want action, and if they would listen to words, they must be words that lead to action. With a little experience and direction, those are the energies that make the leaders who will eventually shape the nation and determine the course of history.

It is therefore with a certain amount of urgency that I speak to you this evening. What I want to tell you concerns you and your future more intimately perhaps than you realize. I want you to be aware of it.

First, let me warn you that you are all WANTED men and women. From the moment you first stepped into this great university you were marked for capture; and the moment you step out, trained and ready to pursue your various professions, the prize for the capture of your minds and hearts will be doubled.

This, my young friends, is what has been foremost in my mind as I gained more and more experience in fighting communism. During my days as Secretary of National Defense and even as President, I have been called a Huk-fighter. It was my job to run after the Huks and chase them out of their hiding places and capture them.

But I knew even then, and I am convinced more than ever now, that, while that phase of fighting communism is important it is far from attacking the problem at its roots. That is why I am so insistent on rural development and the improvement of our national economy. Poverty and unemployment are not the causes of communism; but they are conditions which make it easy for that ideology to thrive.

Communism as an ideology, however, was conceived by intellectuals, not by laborers or peasants. It is spread by clever propagandists, preying on the grievances of the poor and the frustrated. The local politburo members, those who direct the Communist Party in the Philippines today, are intellectuals.

While the rank and file of the communist movement are the ignorant, the disgruntled laborers, the poor people in the barrios—those who do not even understand communism as an ideology—the leaders are often educated middle-class or well-to-do intellectuals.

And this is why I say that you are all WANTED men and women. Because you have all received a fine education in a good university, because you are trained, and because many of you will some day become the intellectual leaders of the nation. The appeal of the communist promises are to the uneducated masses; but the appeal of the communist ideology is to the educated class. It has been said that wars are fought in the classrooms and the campuses of universities long before they are fought on the battle field. I can vouch from my experience in fighting the communists that this is true.

But here at San Carlos University, you have a great advantage and I hope you will make the most of it. In addition to your professional training, you have received a good religious foundation on which to anchor a sound philosophy of life on which to base an ideology and a program for action that the communists cannot easily subvert or destroy.

Your own university, conducted by the Divine Word Fathers, is one example of the positive nationalism I have been advocating—a nationalism that will not lend itself as a tool of the forces that would destroy our democratic way of life—a nationalism that preserves our own native traditions and aspirations—a nationalism that remains open to the good, positive influences of other cultures.

When you go out and take your places as leaders of the nation, when you assume positions of responsibility and contribute to the progress of our country—you will owe to some extent your proficiency, your civic-mindedness, your social consciousness, your courage to stand on your principles, your devotion to duty, to these foreign missionaries who taught you, who have lived in the Philippines for many years, and who love this country almost as their own.

You do not have to be anti-American or anti-foreign in order to be resoundingly, pro-Filipino. And this is the message that I would like to leave with you tonight: you are the battlefield on which future wars will be won or lost—you cannot remain neutral—you will have to take a stand. But keep in mind the principles you have imbibed in this university; keep your faith and your faith will keep you!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Carlos, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 16, Cebu City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1747-1749.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the induction of the officers of the Patria Recreation Club to combat juvenile delinquency

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the induction of the officers of the Patria Recreation Club to combat juvenile delinquency**

[Delivered on March 16, 1957]

I AM glad for the opportunity to commend the vision and the high purposes which have inspired my friends, the Archbishop of Cebu, and the Knights of Columbus to undertake the construction of this building. As I understand it, this project not only testifies to the vitality of your organization and the loyalty of your members. More than this, it is salutary evidence of an attitude which is the crying need of our country today. This attitude is social consciousness and the essence of it is the realization that we do not live for ourselves alone, and that we must use our talents and our acquisitions, our training and our education, to help our fellowmen, to reveal to them the lasting values of life, to brighten its meaning for them. In the administration of our government, I have unceasingly worked to imbue public life with this social attitude. I have anchored my administration to the welfare of the common man, and have exerted every effort so that our programs and our policies may improve his lot and lighten the burden of the centuries upon him.

In this tremendous work, organizations of the character of the Knights of Columbus are in a splendid position to help. Both by the patriotic motives which inspire your activities, as well as the religious force which sustains them, you are called upon to become living examples of the concern, the service, the charity which, as members of the community, we owe to our less fortunate brothers. If patriotism and religion are to withstand the attacks which today threaten to subvert their very foundations, if love of country and love of God are to survive the world-wide conspiracy to bring about their distortion and disfigurement, then we who believe in these virtues must continue to proclaim them, not only in words but in action, and action it must be, for the welfare of our fellow men. Because the project which we inaugurate tonight is an earnest of your patriotism, your love of God and fellowmen, I congratulate you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay's speech at the induction of the officers of the Patria Recreation Club to combat juvenile delinquency, delivered about 12 midnight, March 16. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1749-1750.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the Southwestern Colleges

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Commencement Exercises of the Southwestern Colleges**

[Delivered in Cebu City, March 16, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

THE occasion which brings us together affords me a good opportunity to emphasize a fact we often take for granted in discussions of our national problems. This is the fact that the most valuable and indispensable asset of our national patrimony consists of our human resources. The wealth of our country is of two kinds: the material and the spiritual. To develop the first, we construct power projects and factories, and the rest of the apparatus which our economic and industrial program demands. To conserve the second we maintain a system of public and private schools in which the cultural heritage of our people shall be preserved, developed, and transmitted from generation to generation.

The dignity of the human person is one of the most sacred values constituting our national heritage. It was in defense of that dignity that some of the most glorious pages of our history were written in the blood, sweat, toil, and sufferings of our heroes. It was faith in that dignity which inspired Rizal to call upon the youth to consecrate the best years of their lives, their finest ideals, and their highest loyalties, in a pure oblation to the service and the welfare of our native land.

This same faith in the intrinsic value of the human person is now being ruthlessly suppressed as a hateful heresy in many countries of the world. The lords of communism and their sycophants in the Philippines would degrade man to the position of a slave of the state. They would educate him, develop him, train him to be a tool for the glorification of the State, an economic animal and a political pawn. We here in the Philippines hold the opposite view. Man is not a mere creature of the State but it is for him that the State exists. We hold this view by heritage, by tradition, and by conviction.

The basic conflict over the nature of man underlies the irremediable antagonism between communism and democracy. To consider communism as a mere political form or structure is to undermine the foundation upon which democracy stands. Furthermore, to pretend that here in the Philippines any political expression of communism may claim title to the sovereign right of the people to change their government, is to betray our heritage, uproot our deepest traditions, and stifle our most precious aspirations.

The late President Quezon condemned communism with characteristic bluntness. He said:

“I am against communism. I am a firm believer in the institution of private property. Should anyone attempt tomorrow to establish a school for the preaching of communism in the Philippines, our Government should right away stop it. Should anyone attempt to convert every Filipino into a Red, the Government should act without loss of time.”

We can do no less than President Quezon.

Communism is anti-Filipino. When Communist sympathizers in the Philippines say that their movement is indigenous and not under the influence or control of any alien power, it is merely to coat with the veneer of a so-called Filipinism the dagger they have aimed at the very heart of the Filipino way of life. We cannot for one moment afford to put in jeopardy the freedom of this way of life. Between it and communism there can be no peace, no paralyzing co-existence, no grey neutralism. There can only be conflict—total and without reconciliation.

Neutralism is un-Filipino. To attempt to foist it upon our people is to do them a grave disservice. The country has no need of fence-sitters in the struggle to preserve our way of life. Either we continually love and live this way of life, or communism, stretching across the earth and threatening us here and now, will choke it from the body of our nation.

We are a people with a history of courage. There is no place in that history for the fear of freedom, the fear to be on the side of freedom, the fear to be against slavery, the fear to strike a light for liberty amid the encircling gloom that is communism.

Our democracy is a system of freedom. Our government rests upon principles worked out over many centuries, in many lands. It is the outcome of the long and arduous struggle for human freedom which has been going on since the beginning of time. The great struggle continues in the world, as we know only too well; but in the Philippines, thank God, we are still free. In spite of considerable rant and ill humor, usually around election time, we are a free people. We grumble a great deal and no doubt we have things to grumble about—grumbling is one of our privileges—but we are better off than many other national groups that it is possible to name. It is our right as a free people to demand a change—and, when enough of us want it, to get it. No concentration camp or firing squad awaits us if we happen to be of the minority.

These rights and privileges Communism would utilize now, only to suppress if we relay our vigilance and relent in our determination to keep it out of our national life. Now, more than ever, we must maintain and strengthen that vigilance and renew that determination. We must not allow insidious proposals of economic panaceas to alienate us from our traditional allies in the free world. Let us not delude ourselves that credit arrangements with the enemies of our way of life will solve the economic problems which afflict our land.

We must recognize that no “pie-in-the-sky” formula will cure all our ills; and that we face a continuing demand for calm thinking, sound reason, impassionate and undramatic hard work. A large part of this work must be done by you, my friends, who represent such a vital part of our human resources upon which everything else depends. It is a work which requires the highest kind of confidence and courage, imagination and enthusiasm, dedication and a degree of humbleness growing out of the knowledge that our very survival depends upon it.

It is my hope that with the training you have received from this University—you will be equal to the task.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1957). Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the Southwestern Colleges, 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 16, Cebu City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1743-1745.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Visayas

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Visayas**

[Delivered in Cebu City, March 16, 1957]

MY FRIENDS:

ONE of our most outstanding traits as a people is our love of education. We express this every year in thousands of places all over the country by the happiness of our commencement exercises, by our desire that graduation day may be a thing of joy to our youth, by the honor which we accord to those who are conferred diplomas and degrees. We express our love of learning in the millions of pesos of public funds which we yearly appropriate in order to provide education facilities for our growing school population, and by the support which we give to private educational institutions serving the youth of the land. We show this love of education by the limitless capacity of the Filipino parents for self-abnegation, his readiness to part with his last material possession, in order that his children may look forward to a better life than it has been his lot to love.

In the working out of a democracy, this quality of our people is one of salutary promise. If the essence of democracy is the participation of the governed in their governance, then democracy would indeed thrive best where their love of education and desire for learning find fullest expression and fulfillment.

It is precisely in this light that I would like to talk to you today about what I consider to be the responsibilities and the duties which this passion of our people for education imposes upon each and every one of us.

Upon the government, first of all, it imposes a task of balance—the maintenance of a happy equilibrium between two forces so that the resultant one may be the best interest of the community. These are, on the one hand, the natural right and duty of parents in the education of their children; and on the other, the right of the State as a natural society to expect that that education may not be to its destruction and subversion. The first regards the private right; the second protects the public domain. One operates on the principle that the child has a destiny which transcends the State; the other stems from the stubborn fact that that same child has inalienable duties to render as a member of the State. The evidence of history shows that when either of these forces is allowed to destroy the other, the result has been either educational anarchy or intellectual slavery.

The principal objective of all educational planning in the Philippines is to achieve this balance I have mentioned. We must consider the needs of our country today and in the foreseeable future. We must also consider the capacity of our resources, both material and human, to answer to those needs. And then let us set about, reordering our educational structure so that it may become a more effective instrument for jacking up our capacity to the rising level of our needs. Ours is a rich country, but its wealth to a great extent still lies sleeping in its fields, mountains, forests, and seas. This is so, our educational planners tell us, because we have not been training in sufficient numbers the men and the women whose talents, skills, and ingenuity, whose imagination and enthusiasm and vigor, will coax that wealth to emerge from the treasure chests of nature into the sunlight of our daily lives. Our educational offerings have been too circumscribed, too limited by the deadening influence of administrative uniformity, to afford that diversity of training opportunities which alone can give life to the potential of our people. And we are now just beginning to see the deplorable effects of this failure in the large masses of high school graduates who are neither prepared for college work nor trained to earn a livelihood, in the big numbers of bedegreed college graduates who yearly join the ranks of the crowded professions. We have education graduates applying for jobs as prison guards; holders of commerce degrees, driving taxi-cabs; lawyers, spending the rest of their lives in clerical positions. We must call a halt to this yearly march towards disenchantment and frustration. We must find a way to divert effectively the vast energy latent in our youth to the channels of our economic and social

redemption. The Board of National Education, which the Administration has organized, is making satisfactory progress in this direction.

Our people's love of education also places great and serious responsibilities upon our private schools, colleges, and universities. Principally these institutions must keep faith with the parents whose children are entrusted to their care. This means, simply, that they must keep unimpaired the integrity of the diploma as a testimonial of excellence. This diploma, my friends, is like a picture—the image of the ideal to which the student has been trained. To keep faith with our people's passion for education, private institutions must operate under standards which will not allow that picture to be distorted or to portray an image which does not exist.

Finally, our desire for learning as a people imposes upon our students the duty to work hard at their studies. Only thus can they achieve what to me is ultimately the end of a education, namely action—action of a trained will, guided by the informing light of a developed intellect action directed while in school by the counsel and the example of the teacher; action continuing after graduation in the work of self-perfection and service of fellow countrymen and God.

I congratulate all of you on the success that is yours today.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1957). President Magsaysay's speech at the Commencement Exercises of the University of the Visayas, 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 16, Cebu City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 53(6), 1745-1747.

Speech of President Magsaysay at the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Carlos, March 16, 1957

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Commencement Exercises of the University of San Carlos**

[Delivered at the Cebu City, March 16, 1957]

I AM happy to have this opportunity to address you tonight, you the students of San Carlos University. It has always been for me a refreshing experience to be among the youth—perhaps because I am not so old myself, although in the past few years I might have put on a few grey hairs. But I think the real reason is that I like to speak straight from the shoulder, to be direct and to go straight to the point. And this is a quality that I find also in most young people.

There is a certain impatience in youth which is really nothing more than their energy eager to be put to use. Young people want action, and if they would listen to words, they must be words that lead to action. With a little experience and direction, those are the energies that make the leaders who will eventually shape the nation and determine the course of history.

It is therefore with a certain amount of urgency that I speak to you this evening. What I want to tell you concerns you and your future more intimately perhaps than you realize. I want you to be aware of it.

First, let me warn you that you are all wanted men and women. From the moment you first stepped into this great university you were marked for capture; and the moment you step out, trained and ready to pursue your various professions, the prize for the capture of your minds and hearts will be doubled.

This, my young friends, is what has been foremost in my mind as I gained more and more experience in fighting communism. During my days as Secretary of National Defense and even as President, I have been called a Huk-fighter. It was my job to run after the Huks and chase them out of their hiding places and capture them.

But I knew even then, and I am convinced more than ever now that, while *that* phase of fighting communism is important it is far from attacking the problem at its roots. That is why I am so insistent on rural development and the improvement of our national economy. Poverty and unemployment are not the *causes* of communism; but they are *conditions* which make it easy for that ideology to thrive.

Communism as an ideology, however, was conceived by intellectuals, not by laborers or peasants. It is spread by clever propagandists, preying on the grievances of the poor and the frustrated. The local politburo members, those who direct the Communist Party in the Philippines today, are intellectuals.

While the rank and file of the communist movement are the ignorant, the disgruntled laborers, the poor people in the barrios—those who do not even understand communism as an ideology—the leaders are often educated middle-class or well-to-do intellectuals.

And this is why I say that you are all wanted men and women. Because you have all received a fine education in a good university, because you are trained, and because many of you will some day become the intellectual leaders of the nation. The appeal of the communist *promises* are to the uneducated masses; but the appeal of the communist *ideology* is to the educated class. It has been said that wars are fought in the classrooms and the campuses of universities long before they are fought on the battle field. I can vouch from my experience in fighting the communists that this is true.

But here at San Carlos University, you have a great advantage and I hope you will make the most of it. In addition to your professional training, you have received a good religious foundation on which to anchor a sound philosophy of life on which to base an ideology and a program for action that the communists cannot easily subvert or destroy.

Your own university, conducted by the Divine Word Fathers, is one example of the positive nationalism I have been advocating—a nationalism that will not lend itself as a tool of the forces that would destroy our democratic way of life—a nationalism that preserves our own native traditions and aspirations—a nationalism that remains open to the good, positive influences of other cultures.

When you go out and take your places as leaders of the nation when you assume positions of responsibility and contribute to the progress of our country—you will owe to some extent your proficiency, your civic-mindedness, your social consciousness, your courage to stand on your principles, your devotion to duty, to these foreign missionaries who taught you, who have lived in the Philippines for many years, and who love this country almost as their own.

You do not have to be anti-American or anti-foreign in order to be resoundingly pro-Filipino. And this is the message that I would like to leave with you tonight: you are the battlefield on which future wars will be won or lost—you cannot remain neutral—you will have to take a stand. But keep in mind the principles you have imbibed in this university; keep your faith and your faith will keep you!

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

MESSAGES TO CONGRESS

Budget Message of President Magsaysay for the Fiscal Year 1955

Budget Message of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines For the Fiscal Year 1955

[Released on February 9, 1954]

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 19(1), Article VI of the Constitution, I am submitting herewith the Budget of the National Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955.

PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE BUDGET

This budget has the following principal features:

- (1) It is divided into three parts: Part I, general fund; Part II, special funds; and Part III, fiduciary funds. With the presentation we can readily determine the total proposed expenditures of the government for each fund.
- (2) Expenditures are segregated by bureaus or offices and not by departments so that the total appropriation for each bureau or office can be readily seen.
- (3) Positions of the same title and salary rate have been combined, and the grouping into divisions and sections has been eliminated as much as possible to make the budget simpler and less bulky, to provide flexibility in the assignment of personnel, to conform to changing conditions, and to pave the way for partial adoption of a performance type budget.

We propose to adopt in the end a performance budget which is based upon functions, activities, and projects. With this, Congress will be able to better determine the appropriations that it will authorize based on work accomplished, work expected, and goals to be achieved. Under our present system of line-item budget, emphasis is focused on the number and salaries of personnel to be employed, the cost of supplies, materials, furniture and equipment to be acquired, and the amount and nature of sundry expenses to be incurred, rather than on the end-results or purposes to be accomplished. Under the performance type budget, the citizen will readily see what his government is doing and intends to do for him.

BALANCED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1955

The following is the summary statement of the budget for the fiscal year 1955 compared with the budget for the fiscal year 1954:

Income—		
Ordinary	P666,748,050.00	P557,827,905.00
Extraordinary	<u>1,791,000.00</u>	<u>1,790,600.00</u>
Total Income	P668,539,050.00	P559,618,505.00
Expenditures—		
Ordinary operating expenses	444,391,545.00	416,592,155.00
Fixed expenditures	68,152,760.00	65,285,140.00

Extraordinary expenditures	<u>101,725,555.00</u>	<u>92,458,922.16</u>
General appropriations	P614,269,860.00	P574,336,217.16
Public Works Funds	15,000,000.00	51,893,500.00
Continuing appropriations—		
Counterpart Fund (special account)	32,000,000.00	39,824,907.90
Others	17,000,000.00	94,803,820.28
Deficiency appropriation for operation and maintenance of 3,000 classes		<u>5,426,314.00</u>
	P678,269,860.00	P766,284,759.34
Less—appropriations not programmed for expenditure during the fiscal year	<u>10,000,000.00</u>	<u>126,368,105.85</u>
Total expenditures	<u>P668,269,860.00</u>	<u>P639,916,653.49</u>
Excess of income over expenditures	<u>P269,190.00</u>	<u>P80,298,148.49</u>

It is then with a sense of pride that we submit for your consideration a balanced budget for F. Y. 1955.

DEFICIT

The general fund deficit as of June 30, 1953, was P124,871,471.51. In addition there are obligations unrecorded in the books of accounts of the National government amounting to P99,696,859.54, so that the actual deficit on June 30, 1953 was P224,568,331.05. The following statement shows the expected results of financial operations during the first and second semesters of the current fiscal year:

	July 1 to Dec. 31, 1953 Tentative	Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1954 Estimate	Total
Estimated income	P261,944,195	P297,674,310	P559,619,505
Estimated expenditures	<u>350,288,313</u>	<u>289,628,340</u>	<u>639,916,653</u>
Surplus (or deficit)	<u>(P88,344,118)</u>	<u>P8,045,970</u>	<u>(P80,298,148)</u>

Accurate figures are not yet available for the period ended December 31, 1953, because of the defects of the present accounting system, but preliminary data as shown above indicate a further deficit of P88,344,118. Our program of expenditures for the remaining six months ending June 30, 1954, calls for a total expenditures of P289,628,340, as against an estimated income of P297,674,310, or a probable surplus of P8,045,970. Combining the deficit of P88,344,118 for six months period ended December 31, 1953, of the past administration and the expected surplus of P8,045,970 during the six months period ending June 30, 1954, of our administration, we expect a net deficit of P80,298,148 during the current fiscal year which, as will be noted, was incurred by the former administration.

Adding the net deficit of P80,298,148 to the accumulated deficit of P224,568,331.05 as of June 30, 1953, the accumulated deficit on June 30, 1954, is estimated to increase to P304,866,479. We shall block and later liquidate this accumulated deficit as fast as possible, setting aside, if necessary, a yearly amortization of the entire amount.

INCOME

We do not intend to increase tax rates nor create new taxes. We merely propose to cover the increased expenditures by intensifying collection of existing taxes, and by maintaining our existing sources of revenue. We will see to it that every centavo that is due the government in taxes is collected. No portion of the tax should be lost to the government because of tax evasion or diversion to private channels.

We expect in the near future to raise our income to about one billion pesos to meet all essential needs of the government for operating expenses, capital expenditures, and economic development. During the initial period of our administration, we expect to collect only P668,539,050 because we have yet to gear the tax collecting agencies of our government to their full capacity.

In my state-of-the-nation message to Congress, I recommended the extension of the tax laws which have expired or are due to expire this year in order not to impair the financial stability of the Government. These laws and the amounts the Government stands to lose if not extended are as follows:

Tax Laws	Expiration Date	Estimated Loss of Revenue in Fiscal Year 1955
Individual income tax, R. A. 590	Dec. 31, 1952	P8,000,000.00
Distilled spirits, R. A. 955	Dec. 31, 1954	2,725,000.00
Fermented liquors, R. A. 955	Dec. 31, 1954	1,350,000.00
Wine, R. A. 955	Dec. 31, 1954	25,500.00
Firecrackers, R. A. 955	Dec. 31, 1954	21,500.00
Playing cards, R. A. 955	Dec. 31, 1954	135,000.00
Sales tax, R. A. 958	Dec. 31, 1954	14,900,000.00
Percentage tax, R. A. 958	Dec. 31, 1954	1,450,000.00
Documentary stamp tax, R. A. 870	Dec. 31, 1954	250,000.00
Tax on sales of foreign exchange R. A. 871	June 30, 1954	<u>115,000,000.00</u>
Total		<u>P143,857,000.00</u>

The total sum of P143,857,000 expected to be derived from the extension of these tax laws has been included in the estimated income of P668,539,050.

Our estimated income for the next fiscal year is the biggest, and it is also better than the average income of the last five years which had an average of P476,527,117.20

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Since Communist imperialism continues to threaten us from within and from without, it is imperative that we strengthen our defense organization.

We cannot relax the campaign against armed dissidence until peace and security have been completely restored. The successful prosecution of our development and productive programs demands no less.

The appropriations for the Department of National Defense have been increased by P6,314,400. This increase is necessary to enable us to implement the policy of building a strong citizen army and mobilizing troops and trainees for public works and economic development projects compatible with their primary mission.

In view of funds limitations, we can only provide sufficient appropriations for the payment of gratuities under Republic Act No. 610, minimum wage pay differential, re-enlistment bonus and clothing allowance of enlisted men, for the operation of the Base Shop, for the maintenance of additional air force equipment expected from the United States Government under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program, and for covering deficits of prior years in clothing allowance, re-enlistment bonus, minimum wage pay differential, and gratuities.

This budget also includes an item of P140,000 for expenses of the National Security Council under the Office of the President. The Council must be re-activated, availing itself of the services of a full time secretariat, in order to give proper direction to the development of our armed forces, compatible with the economic and manpower potential of the country and in conformity with our agreements with free countries.

EDUCATION

The Constitution entrusts the Government with the obligation to provide free primary instruction. This is not an idle Constitutional requirement. It is a solemn duty of the Government to provide our children with the rudiments of at least a primary education, to eliminate the blight of illiteracy and all its attendant ills from our land and give our children a decent chance at an enlightened citizenship.

To enable the Government to comply fully with this Constitutional mandate, the appropriation for the Department of Education has been increased by over P12 million. The additional appropriation will take care of the normal increase of population coming of school age during the next school year. It will also finance the continued operation of new classes opened during fiscal year 1954. To continue the operation of 3,000 extension classes opened during the first half of fiscal year 1954, for which no appropriation had been provided in the general appropriation act, we have requested the Congress to provide a deficiency appropriation of P5,426,314.

AGRICULTURE

We have increased the appropriation for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources by almost P1 million for ordinary expenditures and by P6 million for extraordinary expenditures, or by a total of P7 million.

Ours is an eminently agricultural country. It is our duty to pay attention to our agriculture. We should foster to the fullest extent our agricultural development and the agricultural pursuits of our people. The growth of this country must start from the grass roots.

We have provided P4 million for land settlement. We should open new settlement projects and expedite the development of existing ones. We should enable as many of our citizens as possible to settle in places where they can acquire a means of livelihood and title to a piece of land, no matter how small, which they can call their own. In so doing, we shall be implementing our policy of land for the landless. We shall also provide an effective remedy against unemployment. We shall eliminate one of the causes of unrest and discontent, for, whenever a man becomes the owner of a piece of land, he acquires the pride of possession, the feeling of security, and the freedom from want and fear; he will have faith in his government; he will become resistant to Communist lies; he will love his country more. I will always pay special attention to this problem during my administration.

We have increased by P2 million the appropriation for the eradication of plant pests and other diseases, including rats. Our campaign against *kadang-kadang* and mosaic diseases, and for the extermination of rats should be intensified. We should prevent the destruction of our staple crops, stabilize our food production, and safeguard our export products. Our infant industries utilizing raw materials from our agricultural products cannot be developed unless they are assured of a regular supply of such raw materials. All efforts tending to stabilize our food production and the production of other agricultural products for export will in the long run help in stabilizing and improving our national economy.

HEALTH

We have increased by over P5 million the appropriation for the Department of Health. The greatest wealth of this country lies in its people, its human resources. We cannot afford to neglect them.

The Department of Health has to be made more effective in fulfilling its function of protecting the health of our people and maintaining sanitary living conditions for them. Unfortunately, the great masses of our people cannot afford yet even the most elementary health facilities available from private sources. We must, therefore, supplement

private facilities with government institutions like hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, and puericulture centers, where the needy may seek relief and assistance in times of illness and pain. Let us work to the end that no man, woman, or child in this country shall die without the benefit of adequate medical assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

The financial stability of our Government and the solvency of its cash position depend in a large measure on the efficiency of our tax collecting agencies.

We have increased by over P2.5 million the total appropriation for the Department of Finance, including the different bureaus and offices under it. We want to provide our tax collecting agencies with the necessary facilities to improve their efficiency.

For the Bureau of Customs we are proposing an increase of P1,639,375.00 and for the Bureau of Internal Revenue, P856,290.00. These two bureaus bear the burden of collecting the bulk of our revenues. The increased outlay for these revenue collecting agencies is an investment which will return P110 million in increased collections.

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

We have increased our contribution to the University of the Philippines by P600,000, to enable this institution to acquire and retain the best possible materials on its faculty and staff. The University of the Philippines must set the highest standards of education in this country. To do this, it must have the best men on its faculty and staff, which means it must provide remuneration commensurate with their abilities and experience, and comparable to the pay levels of their colleagues in private universities.

CONTINGENT FUND

We are including in this budget an appropriation of P10 million as a contingent fund on which the President may draw for unforeseen contingencies such as typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, fires, epidemics, and other calamities; for rural improvements; and for augmenting appropriations authorized for the executive departments which may be found inadequate to carry out the purposes intended by Congress.

The expenditure proposals are not rigid and inflexible. There will arise occasions when transfers of funds from one item to another become necessary because, as in the past, the amounts originally appropriated for one item may prove to be insufficient to achieve the objectives sought, while another may be in excess of what is needed. There may also be occasions when money will have to be drawn from a contingent fund because sufficient savings in other items may not be realized.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH FOA AID

The Economic Development Program utilizing United States aid through the Foreign Operations Administration enters its third year of operations. With the initial impetus given by the joint development program to various government agencies undertaking development projects in agriculture and forestry, transportation and public works, handicrafts and cottage industries, education and public health, and improvement of public administration, a more selective program of economic development will be adopted during the fiscal year 1955. Emphasis will be placed on the prosecution of high-priority development and construction projects, compared with diversified projects in the past year, plus the strengthening of service functions and the training abroad of deserving Filipino technicians. Compared with P7,798,540 during the fiscal year 1954, P19,836,805 for the operation and maintenance of existing projects and P26,880,000 special appropriations have been provided under Counterpart Funds for the fiscal year 1955.

As we continue to receive assistance from the Government of the United States, there is correspondingly a continuing demand for peso funds essential to the most effective utilization of the dollar equipment and technical

assistance received. As of June 30, 1953, commodity grants and technical assistance under this program amounted to \$64.6 million. For the fiscal year 1954 an additional \$17 million is expected to be authorized for similar purposes, or a total of \$81.6 million. The dollar aid will require a counterpart deposit of P163.2 million. However, about P29 million will be generated by scarce commodities imported for distribution through ordinary trade channels, thus leaving the amount of P134.2 million to be deposited in the Counterpart Fund-Special Account. It will be recalled that the Congress has already appropriated P120 million under Republic Acts Nos. 604, 820, 902, and 906. We have, therefore, provided an additional appropriation of P10 million to assure the availability of funds from which this Government can make deposits in the Counterpart Fund-Special Account in order to match the dollar commodities and assistance which are programmed in the fiscal year 1955 and thus assure the United States Government of the availability of counterpart funds to cover the peso equivalent of United States dollar aid.

DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

We should now seriously embark on a sound and realistic economic planning. Let us not leave our economic development to chance. Let us profit from the wisdom of the past, shunning its errors and learning from its lessons. To accelerate the development of our national economy, we should adopt an integrated investment program supported by adequate financing. By doing so, we shall insure the attainment of a rising level of production, employment, and real income for all our people.

The need of elevating the socio-economic status of the masses of our people requires that we provide wider opportunities for employment and income and thereby raise their living standards, particularly in the rural areas. We hope to attain increased agricultural production and to provide more industries and job opportunities for the unemployed, more efficient transportation facilities and better health, educational, and community facilities in the barrios.

Naturally, to raise the level of production, employment, and real income of our people, we should strive to channel the private sector of our economy to such productive activities and enterprises as will increase production, provide more jobs, and raise the standard of living of the masses. In addition to these, we should also provide, through our own available resources, a sustained program of investment.

Our public investment program should include major projects of the various departments and agencies of the Government, capital expenditures in public administration, projects of the government-owned corporations, and other development projects that may be approved upon the recommendation of the National Economic Council.

We shall submit to you in due time definite proposals for development financing including the sources and limits of the financing plan involved. The plan calls for raising part of the amount to be needed for investment purposes from the sale of bonds to the public and/or borrowing. This method of financing government expenditures for capital formation and productive purposes has been adopted and approved by practically all progressive countries. They have adopted this system of financing in order to accelerate their economic development and to apportion to succeeding generations part of the cost of the permanent improvements whose benefits they will enjoy in their time.

PUBLIC WORKS

In the past, public works projects have been planned and undertaken haphazardly. There has been no systematic and constructive planning, and the site and size of projects oftentimes were dictated by the political considerations, not the public need. We must put a stop to this.

During our administration, we propose to carry out a systematic, wisely planned, and efficiently executed program of public works. We are now laying the groundwork for a four-year program under which we shall build a network of roads and bridges all over the country and erect powerhouses in strategic places, school buildings in almost every barrio, markets and slaughterhouses, public parks, and centers of recreation.

This program will call for the maximum utilization of our manpower and the wise expenditure of money. We shall allot yearly for public works as much money as we can provide out of our own resources and from borrowing or the sale of bonds. These expenditures will represent our investments in the future of this country.

TAILORING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO FIT THE NEW SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAM

This administration has had very little time for the preparation of this budget. Economies that could have effected here and there might have been overlooked. Our goal of strictest economy consistent with efficiency in the operation of the Government may not be fully attained. Duplication and overlapping of functions and a superabundance of red tape still characterize our administrative structure. These defects cannot very well be remedied through the budget. What is necessary is a thorough-going reorganization of the Government to enable it to function more economically, efficiently, and effectively.

We are hopeful and the future looks bright. We are inspired by the fact that the people have given us a mandate in an irrefutable manner to lead them towards political, social, and economic freedom and well-being. We cannot and should not fail. The Congress has as much a stake as the President in this our joint effort for social and economic amelioration. I, therefore, ask your cooperation in this our joint task of serving the best interests of our people. I pledge you mine.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY

THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Manila

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). The President's Budget Message, February 9, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(2), 552-560.

Ramon Magsaysay, First State of the Nation Address, January 25, 1954

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 25, 1954]

Mr. PRESIDENT, Mr. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

The Constitution makes us equal partners in the patriotic task of serving our people. I am here today to start the job with you.

What do our people want?

When our people cast their ballots in the recent election, they voted primarily for a great, sweeping change. They voted to throw out dishonesty, inefficiency, and waste. And they voted for a government that would act boldly and effectively, to banish insecurity and fear, poverty and want.

We promised all these things. The people voted for them. Now we must keep faith.

Our first step must be to take an inventory of the nation, to define our problems, and to set our goals.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Let us turn first to the security of the nation, which must be our prime concern.

I must warn against complacency. Communist imperialism still threatens us from without and from within.

Externally, the creeping advance of Communism continues in Southeast Asia despite the truce in Korea.

We must, therefore, move to strengthen our defenses. It is clearly in the national interest that we meet with the representatives of the United States Government to settle pending legal questions so that the bases we have granted to that country can be immediately developed and fully activated.

Internally, the absence of major armed conflicts in dissident areas does not necessarily mean that the Huks have ceased to be a threat. They are still trying to undermine the Government, not with as much open defiance as before, but slyly and secretly.

Against this conspiracy we will continue our policy of "all-out friendship and all-out force." I say again what I have said many times before: we will give every dissident who surrenders new opportunities for decent livelihood, but we will smash those who would overthrow our independent democracy in order to hand it over to an alien dictatorship.

THE LAND PROBLEM

At the same time we will employ the manpower and resources of our Armed Forces to combat not only dissidence but also the causes which breed dissidence. Troops and trainees of the Armed Forces will be mobilized for the construction of public works and economic development projects, as far as this may be compatible with their primary mission and with economy of operation. This will achieve a double purpose: to give these citizens training in useful and technical pursuits, and to help in the material progress of the nation.

The existing civilian agency charged with resettlement work, the Land Settlement Development Company (LASEDECO), is in such a state of disorganization and disorder, that it may be more convenient to liquidate and replace it than to reorganize it. I am afraid, however, that it will take some time before we can set up a new and effective agency, and I would suggest that the Engineer Development Corps (EDCOR) be expanded and utilized to help not only surrendered Huks but also those landless Filipinos who have remained loyal.

As much as the finances of the Government will permit, we should also buy large estates for resale to small farmers on liberal terms.

In order to encourage agricultural production and eliminate absentee-landlordism, I propose that Congress study the advisability of imposing special taxes on lands left uncultivated for an unreasonably long period and without justifiable cause.

Our laws on land registration and the disposition of public lands should be revised. We should make it easier for our people to get land of their own, free from any nagging technical doubts.

The Government should extend greater protection to tenants who, because of ignorance or illiteracy, are often badly in need of advice with respect to their rights, especially in the liquidation of their harvests with the landlords. I urge Congress to strengthen the legal staff entrusted with the specific task of rendering this kind of assistance.

Existing legislation on tenancy relations is confusing.

There are too many laws in too many books. We need a single, concise, and easily understood farm tenancy code.

Our small farmers and producers should find it easier to borrow money when they need it to increase production. This means more rural banks and more ample working capital for the Agricultural Credit Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA). Producers' cooperatives should also be properly organized and financed.

Our ultimate goal is to reshape land tenure system in our country in such a way as to build a strong nation of small, independent, and contented farm owners, free from want, protected from injustice, and eager to contribute their share to the welfare and progress of the nation.

HELP TO FARMERS

But our people must realize that individually, as well as nationally, we must help ourselves. The fundamental difficulty is that our farmers and workers do not earn enough money, largely because they have not been trained to work efficiently. We must extend the present facilities to educate our farmers in modern agricultural methods, such as the use of fertilizers, mechanical equipment seed selection, soil conservation, crop rotation, and other means to improve agricultural yields.

We should do everything possible to increase the yield per unit area and improve the quality of our export products in order to place us in a better position to compete with other suppliers of the world markets.

The attainment of sufficiency in rice production and distribution is one of our major goals. We shall hasten the construction of more irrigation systems and encourage efforts to increase rice production yields, and at the same time take measures to bring the price of rice down to the reach of the common man.

The development of cottage industries must be an integral part of our industrial program, not only to produce goods but also to help supplement the low income of our people in the barrios.

In many areas our farmers are harassed by destructive plant pests and diseases. We should help them fight the cadang-cadang disease in the coconut regions, control mosaic disease in abaca, and eradicate rat infection. I trust

Congress will provide sufficient funds to finance research and control work on these diseases and pests now threatening our major crops.

IMPROVEMENTS IN BARRIO LIFE

As I have often pointed out, our barrio people do not even have safe water to drink. I must ask your fullest support for the administration's program of building waterworks and artesian wells all over the country.

Civic-spirited members of our community, particularly the Lions Club and the Liberty Wells Association, have spontaneously taken up the challenge to provide our people with artesian wells. I know you will not do less.

I would also ask Congress to study the feasibility of granting subsidies as a means of encouraging doctors and nurses to establish themselves in those remote areas which now lack essential medical and health services. We must have a healthy manpower as the most essential factor for economic advancement. No nation can go forward when it is crippled by disease.

The Social Welfare Administration has mapped out a definite program of self-help projects designed to put needy individuals back on their feet. It will also cooperate actively in the settlement program and send social workers to the barrios to carry out rural improvement projects.

ENCOURAGEMENT LABOR UNIONS

In the industrial centers of population this administration is committed to help labor attain maturity so that it may assume its place of responsibility side by side with management. Under my administration, I will not countenance any attempt on the part of the Government or any of its officials to dominate or influence the labor unions.

We will encourage free unionism under responsible, enlightened leadership truly dedicated to the welfare of the laboring masses. But I warn those unscrupulous individuals who would use the labor movement to exploit the workers that their activities will not go unpunished. We will be equally hard with interference by management in labor union activities.

ECONOMIC PLANNING

What we need above all is a coordinated plan, theoretically sound and practically feasible, to increase the national production and provide opportunities for more jobs and higher incomes for our people, particularly in the rural areas. In the past, such programs have not made adequate progress because of ineffective implementation and insufficient support.

I recommend that the National Economic Council be revitalized as a really effective agency to plan and put into effect a truly integrated program for economic development.

Government corporations have been created purportedly for this purpose, but they failed to achieve their objective because they were manned by incompetent or dishonest officials, because they were diverted from their original functions, or because they were unwisely expanded. I have ordered an inquiry into the operations and activities of these corporations, and in due time, I will submit to Congress appropriate recommendations.

GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

The Government will henceforth confine itself to those phases of development where its participation is absolutely essential to the public welfare.

Private capital, from sources both at home and abroad, will be preferred to direct government financing, whenever possible.

I hope that our own people will go into new ventures and take full advantage of the incentives now and to be provided by our Government. These economic pioneers deserve our support.

We also welcome foreign capital, assuring it fair treatment. In the past it was perhaps discouraged by the uncertainty of our attitude, and I propose that we mark out clearly a stable basis on which foreign investors can put their capital to work in this country.

My administration is pledged to the eventual elimination of controls. I propose to achieve this gradually as the development of domestic industry and trade renders controls unnecessary. In the meantime, we shall have to maintain them to conserve our financial resources and to channel them to fundamental development activities. Controls will be administered honestly, fairly, and efficiently. We will not permit any government official or employee to utilize them for private gain.

FOREIGN POLICY

The joint Philippine-American program of self-help, designed to assist our country's economic development, merits our vigorous support. Together with the representatives of the Foreign Operations Administration, we are now considering ways and means to speed up the assistance program, in our mutual desire to bring its benefits to our people at the earliest possible time. I trust that Congress will provide adequate counterpart funds. We shall also explore other programs of economic cooperation with nations in Asia and with the United Nations.

Most vital to our internal growth and development, however, is our trade relationship with the United States. Our Government has asked for a re-examination of the Bell Trade Act in the earnest belief that the situation in which it was originally considered and drafted has changed, and that a new situation has arisen which calls for a new arrangement. We are confident that the Government and people of the United States will not look upon our proposals with indifference.

Pending the outcome of those negotiations, we must be prepared to adjust ourselves to new conditions. It is my desire, as well as that of the Vice-President, that our foreign policy serve the economic needs of our people. Consequently, new emphasis will be placed on the promotion of foreign trade as one of our primary objectives. Our foreign service will everywhere have the new mission of contributing directly to the economic stability and expanding trade of our people.

As a good neighbor to the countries of Southeast Asia, we shall participate in all regional activities that will promote closer economic and cultural relations among us. We have ties with European countries, and, through our Spanish heritage, with the Spanish-American republics. We shall strive to establish mutually beneficial commercial relations with them.

The restoration of normal relations with Japan through an early settlement of the reparations issue should open another avenue of prosperous intercourse.

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Our principal difficulty, however, is money. Our General Fund deficit, as of June 30, 1953, was P124,900,000. Incomplete data on operations for the six-month period ending December 31, 1953, indicate a further deficit. There are obligations unrecorded in the books amounting to P99,700,000. The General Fund owes the various special funds P17,000,000.

Our public debt, as of September 30, 1953, was P1,070,740,782.79. This figure includes the extraordinary advance of P200,000,000 from the Central Bank for economic rehabilitation and development, all of which has been released; P550,000,000 in backpay obligations; and P178,400,000 in various budgetary loans. All these obligations have to be liquidated out of general fund receipts. If we consider that the average annual income of the Government was less than P600,000,000 in the past, we will readily see that we have a problem of the first magnitude.

We must, therefore, maintain our existing sources of revenue, and discover ways and means of increasing government income without creating new tax burdens. I am constrained to request Congress to extend the tax laws which have expired, or are to expire, this year. Our failure to do so would mean a loss of about P150,000,000 in revenues, which will impair essential public services.

The honest, realistic, and really economical way to run this Government is to collect the present taxes efficiently, intensively. We must go after tax evaders without favoritism and drive home the lesson on that they deserve no mercy. To this end, I recommend that Congress make the penalties for tax evasion more severe. These increased penalties should take effect after a fixed date, up to which tax evaders or delinquents should be given a chance to settle their obligations. After the deadline, no compromises should be entertained and the law should be enforced to the letter.

On the other hand, we must tighten our purse strings. We must abandon the practice of authorizing appropriations far in excess of funds actually in the treasury and those reasonably anticipated.

I recommend that Congress make a distinction between expenses needed to run the government and render essential public services, and those expenses which are really capital investments. The ordinary operational expenses should never exceed the total revenues in any fiscal year. We must live within our means. We should not try to balance our budget with loans, as we have tried to do in the past. We must support ourselves.

This does not mean, however, that we are opposed to the financing of capital expenditures to increase production and provide public works, through public borrowing. Capital expenditures of this type should be regarded as investments in the future economic stability and security of our country.

PUBLIC WORKS

In great part these investments take the form of public works projects. Politics often dictated when, where, and for how much such projects would be undertaken. Much money and effort went to waste that way.

Public necessity should now be our criterion. Our needs are great but our resources are small. This calls for careful planning, intelligent selection, and consistent and economical implementation of projects.

I am for the adoption of a public works program that will bring the benefits of democracy to the nipa huts of the poor. All too often our small farmers have to carry their products to market on their backs because we have neglected barrio roads. These, in turn, would not be fully effective unless they feed a system of national highways. Our aim would be to make them consist principally of concrete pavements financed through public borrowing, to be serviced from the Highway Fund. The large first cost of this undertaking will be more than compensated in the form of reduced road maintenance and vehicular operational costs.

In the past, our attempts to provide our children with adequate school buildings have been half-hearted, piecemeal. We should now consider a school building program on a national scale. I propose the manufacture of prefabricated buildings in plants located in strategic places, from which buildings can be transported to the remotest barrios, where they will be installed with the help of the people themselves. A more rapid pace of school building construction is needed, if we are to accommodate the large number of children coming of school age every year.

MORALITY IN GOVERNMENT

And now let us consider the moral state of the nation. There is little in the immediate past of which we may be proud. Since the change of administration, we have unearthed one case after another of outrageous corruption, abuse of power, and manipulation of the laws for self-enrichment. The sordid record is just beginning to unfold. I fear that further inquiry will yield even uglier facts.

What, we have been asked, are we going to do about all this?

We must, first of all, remove unworthy government officials and employees. Where the evidence so warrants, we will prosecute those who justly deserve prosecution. Not only considerations of morale and discipline but also the very progress of our work make this demand upon us. We shall not be able to move ahead for as long as those entrusted with the promotion of the public welfare are busy exploring and exploiting opportunities for selfish ends. We simply cannot tolerate such men in the government. They must go.

I wish to make clear that the spirit of justice, not of persecution, will guide us in this undertaking. The innocent, the honest and the efficient need fear nothing from us. This Government will protect and defend their rights by enforcing impartially and without political bias our civil service rules and regulations. In the Executive Department, I will not permit anyone to exact political vengeance on honest and efficient employees by dismissing them without cause or harassing them in any other way. The victory we have won is not a license for political persecution.

To guide us in the conduct of public business, we must return to the timeless moral and political principles which we have either forgotten or taken for granted. There is the principle that honesty is the best policy in public as well as in private life. There is the principle that, while politics is indispensable for the workings of democracy, it cannot be superior to the interest of the nation.

In the effort to secure for ourselves and our children a government of integrity and efficiency, I will welcome whatever legislation may be enacted by Congress that will serve to prevent, deter, and discourage corruption, increase the penalty for malfeasance in office, and lay down definite rules of ethical conduct in government.

In the last few years there has been a decline of morality. Character building alone, without a solid moral foundation, has been found inadequate in developing a sound citizenry. We should improve and strengthen the implementation of the Constitutional provision on optional religious instruction through practical and just measures.

I shall address to the Congress on another occasion a special message on the problems of students who have proved their right to participate in public affairs, as well as on the need to stimulate and foster the growth of our native culture among our youth.

ACTION AND UNITY

These, then, are the problems that we are committed to solve. To be sure, many more will arise in the course of this administration. But I sincerely believe that solutions to them will be found, just as I am confident that we shall be able to dispose of the difficult business at hand.

I must remind you of an all-important fact: that what we have set out to do can be realized only through concerted action and unity. More than ever, we must think, plan, and work as one, with only one supreme goal in mind—the promotion of the welfare and happiness of our people.

Perhaps you will say that the people are asking for a miracle. But they too performed no less than a miracle when in one great irresistible movement they dared every peril to preserve the right to have a government of their choice. Thus, they proved to the whole world, to our friends and enemies, that democracy has come of age in our land, that it has become truly and actively a part of the Filipino way of life.

We have pledged to enrich that life. We can do it. We must do it. With the aid of Divine Providence, we shall begin and continue the work until we shall have fulfilled the great promise that gave our people strength to prove themselves worthy of their heritage of freedom.

Ramon Magsaysay, Second State of the Nation Address, January 24, 1955

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 24, 1955]

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress:

Since my first report to you a year ago, significant changes have occurred in our country and in the world.

Here at home, the most encouraging change is not measurable in statistics.

When we took over the reins of government, the nation was demoralized. There was bitter dissension and defeatism. Our people had lost faith in their institutions and in themselves.

Today, there is a new spirit of confidence in our land.

If this Administration can claim any outstanding achievement during the past year, it is the restoration of national self-respect and the revival of the people's faith in the democratic way of life. Our people and their Government are now as one, jointly engaged in the grand enterprise of securing for this country the fullness of freedom and prosperity.

In this vital transformation, the role of this Administration has been a modest one. We have done no more than to activate the resurgence of national self-confidence and to establish the essential conditions for its constructive expression. If achievements there have been, they have been possible because our people wanted them and worked to bring them about.

In the world at large, the collective strength of the free nations increased sufficiently to deter overt acts of aggression. Thanks to the free world's readiness to defend the peace, the danger of an atomic war is now less imminent.

But grave dangers still remain. Communist imperialism has not renounced its objective of world domination. It is still actively promoting subversion within the free nations.

Even as we meet here, the Tachen islands, only a few hundred miles to the north of us, are aflame under new Communist attacks. We must remain on guard.

It is against this background that I should like to consider with you today the state of the nation.

NATIONAL SECURITY

We have made positive in the strengthening of the national security.

In the discharge of this basic responsibility, we have sought, first of all the effective implementation by the United States of her commitments under the Philippine-American Mutual Defense Treaty, upon which we must rely principally for our external defense. America has responded with a categorical commitment of immediate assistance

to our country in case of attack; and a permanent Philippine-American Council has been created for the effective implementation of the treaty.

Actually, the United States military bases we now have here are America's earnest to us of automatic retaliation to aggression.

Our participation in the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, now known as the Manila Pact, has further enhanced our nation's security. As the first regional collective defense agreement in our part of the world, this Pact extends the collective security system envisaged by the United Nations Charter.

Thus, by every possible defense arrangement—bilateral, regional, and international—we have strengthened our external defense.

Our internal security has improved. The alertness of the Armed Forces brought about the surrender of Luis Taruc and the death of Mariano Balgos, two of the top Communists in the Philippines. Still other Huk leaders and followers have surrendered or have been either killed or captured. Many Huk-infested areas have been cleared and put back to productive use.

I must say here that these successes in the restoration of public order would not have been possible without the loyal support and cooperation of the civilian population.

All this notwithstanding, I must repeat my warning against complacency. We must continue to be alert to the dangers of Communist aggression and subversion. Our gains in the restoration of peace in our countryside must be consolidated. Our armed forces must continue to protect our farmers and their homes. We cannot as yet afford to lessen either our vigilance or our armed strength.

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION

But there is more to national security than simply maintaining territorial integrity and public order. To be really secure, a country must assure for its citizens the social and economic conditions that would enable them to live in decency, free from ignorance, disease, and want.

Today, a concerted effort is being exerted to bring about these conditions in our rural areas. Varied elements of our society—the Government, the youth, civic-spirited individuals and organizations, the rural people themselves—all are engaged in the great undertaking of bringing freedom and progress to our barrios.

We are approaching the problem along three main lines:

First, improvement of our land tenure system, supplemented by land resettlement:

Second, more effective aid to tenants and small farmers in the form of (a) credit on easy terms; (b) essential facilities, such as water and roads; and (c) technical advice on how to improve farm operations; and

Third, more intensive community development with emphasis on self-help.

The first approach, land reform, gained headway with the approval of the Agricultural Tenancy Act last year. This law extends greater protection to tenants. More important still, it grants them the option to choose the system of tenancy under which they would prefer to work. By choosing the leasehold system, a tenant, of his own free will, takes an important step towards economic independence.

To implement the Act, we have established the Agricultural Tenancy Commission. In the short time that it has functioned, this Commission has already proved effective in assisting tenants in the exercise of their rights. I would recommend, therefore, that Congress provide it with needed funds.

However, it is not enough to provide tenants with this type of assistance. It is equally necessary that tenancy disputes be settled with dispatch. Hence, I would reiterate my recommendation for the creation of a Court of Agrarian Relations.

Another essential measure in land reform is the purchase or expropriation of large estates and their distribution to their occupants and to landless workers. Mainly owing to lack of funds, we have been unable to implement this measure to any large extent. I would urge Congress to consider anew ways and means to carry out the redistribution of large estates.

We have however, distributed public lands to landless workers at a fast rate. Last year, the Bureau of Lands issued to qualified settlers 28,000 land patents, covering 241,000 hectares. Compared to the 10,000 land patents issued in 1953 and the 3,000 issued in 1952, last year's total constitutes a record.

Nevertheless we must accelerate our pace. Our people, on their own initiative, are moving to public lands opened and subsided for settlement. This is indicated by the fact that during the last year 33,000 applications for agricultural lands were filed by independent settlers.

For others who, due to poverty, are unable to proceed to settlement areas by themselves, the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration (NARRA) has opened several settlement projects. NARRA assists families to move from congested rural areas to these projects, providing them with farm implements, transportation, subsistence up to the first crop, and other forms of aid.

Under this Administration, NARRA moved 2,882 settler families from crowded rural areas to about 27,000 hectares of public land. In addition, it allocated 10,000 hectares of public land to 1,718 landless families who pioneered in the settlement areas, and helped them in the survey of their clearings and in the acquisition of land titles. NARRA spent during the year under review P1.3 million of which 77 per cent went as direct aid to the settlers. I would recommend that Congress appropriate the funds already authorized by it for NARRA. Our second approach consists in assisting the poor farmer get on his feet.

In most cases, the vicious circle of inadequate production and insufficient credit has kept him in dire property. The Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) has begun to break that circle by making available to small farmers credit on easy terms. At the same time, ACCFA helps them in setting up marketing and warehousing facilities, through their own cooperatives.

During the last year, ACCFA greatly intensified its aid to farmers. As of December 31, 1954, it had released a total of 18.9 million pesos in loans of various types of farmers. It had organized 232 Farmers Cooperative Marketing Associations (FACOMAS) in Central and Northern Luzon and Cotabato, with a total membership of 105,943 farmers.

ACCFA's operations are still in their initial phase. They have covered only 2,375 of our 18,000 barrios. Yet, they already count with the enthusiastic support of our people.

One very encouraging aspect of ACCFA's operations is that the small farmers pay their crop loans on time. In the past, crop loans were seldom, if ever, paid. Under this Administration, there has been an important change of attitude on the part of our farmers. This healthy trend proves once more that it is sound business to invest in the people's welfare.

Clearly, ACCFA should expand its operations. I would recommend that Congress increase its capital.

The Farmer's pressing need for irrigation is gradually being met with our irrigation construction program, which we started to carry out vigorously during the past year.

Four irrigation projects financed by public works funds, covering a total area of 9,000 hectares, have been completed or are nearing completion. PHILCUSA-FOA funds have financed one completed project in Nueva Ecija; another in Iloilo now nearing completion; and still another in Isabela to be completed before the end of this year—covering a total area of 42,100 hectares.

In addition, we have started work on seven irrigation projects—the Agno River project in Pangasinan; the Sta. Cruz and Mabacan River projects in Laguna; the Daet River project in Camarines Norte; the Agos River project in Quezon Province; the Pañgiplan River project in Negros Occidental; and the Suague River project in Iloilo. These projects covering about 40,000 hectares and estimated to cost P22 million, are being financed from bond issues.

Another essential feature of this program is the development of communal irrigation systems. An expenditure of P957,254.40 was incurred for the construction of 90 communal irrigation systems in 27 provinces.

I have also earmarked one million pesos from the Contingent Fund for the purchase of cement which the Government will contribute for the construction of permanent communal irrigation systems to be built primarily by the barrio people themselves, who, for their part, will contribute labor, sand, and gravel. Farmers from Nueva Vizcaya and La Union were the first to avail themselves of this joint venture between the people and their Government.

Wherever feasible, the gravity irrigation systems are now being supplemented by pump irrigation facilities.

To speed up the implementation of our irrigation construction program, existing administrative and financing policies on water utilization and water rights should be re-examined.

To provide potable water, more than 1,300 artesian wells have been completed to date in the barrios at a cost of 3.5 million pesos. This means that we have installed an average of four artesian wells each working day. Compared with the total of 153 artesian wells installed in 1952 and 256 in 1953, this constitutes a great improvement. This year, as we get additional drilling equipment, we expect to better this record.

While on this subject, I would like to commend the splendid cooperation of organizations and individuals, led by the Liberty Wells Association, in the Government's artesian wells program.

Fifteen waterworks projects costing 2.5 million pesos have been completed. Forty more, with an estimated total cost of 25.5 million pesos, will be constructed within the year. Work is now going on in over 80 spring development projects which will benefit about 90,000 people. Next to water, road facilities are essential in improving the farmer's lot. This brings us to the Administration's highway and feeder road program.

During the past year, we have constructed about 430 kilometers of feeder roads serving about 80 communities and opening new areas. In Mindanao, we have started the construction of 235 kilometers of roads which, when completed, will open large areas of agricultural, forests, and mineral lands, and connect the coastal with the inland towns.

About 479 kilometers of roads were also improved in various parts of the country, of which 82 kilometers of asphalt and concrete pavement were completed. The improvement of the interprovincial network was started on 90 projects covering a total of 385 kilometers of concrete paving and 182 kilometers of asphalt and 29 permanent bridges.

Aside from the foregoing, which were financed or are being financed from the Highway Fund, we have also started construction on 19 road projects and eight bridge projects, with an estimated cost of 20 million pesos, to be financed by funds from bond issues.

During the first year of the program, much of the work consisted in developing practical and efficient operating methods better planning and allocation of funds, and the organization of equipment depots and maintenance crews.

This year we expect the program to gain momentum. We propose to concentrate our work primarily on feeder roads to reach our long-isolated barrios. Considering our lack of funds and the enthusiasm of our rural people, I would suggest that Congress approve the necessary legislation authorizing the construction of feeder roads on a self-help basis. The Government shall provide the funds, know-how and equipment; and the people, their labor and locally available materials.

The yield of our farming not enough to support our small farmers. They are eager to produce more, but they know only antiquated farming methods. To help them, the Government is providing throughout the country technical advice on improved farming methods, through the agricultural extension service and other agencies. Better breeds of animals and high-yielding varieties of rice have been introduced. Soil classification and analysis have been extended to many areas, largely through the untiring efforts of the field men. Special mention should be made of the Margate system of rice culture as a direct means for improving the rice yield. It is now being introduced all over the country. As we help our people become better farmers, we also encourage them to make their barrios better places to live in. We tell them that the Government cannot do everything for them, that they must also help themselves.

Their response has been most heartening. The spirit of self-help is sweeping our rural communities. Here again, the role of the Government is simply to tap the creative energies of our people and to provide the means by which their desire for improvement can be translated into permanent benefits.

It is for this purpose that our health, education, and social welfare programs are being re-oriented with emphasis on self-help.

In the campaign to control and eventually eliminate mass diseases, the active cooperation of our people is being enlisted. Our aim is to increase the effectiveness of the campaign and to make its effects more lasting. The approach has been especially useful in the successful BCG vaccination and malaria control campaigns. More than 1,000 rural health units have been established as a joint venture of the national and local governments, with FOA assistance.

The pre-fabricated schoolhouses now being mass produced will be set up in the barrios, also on a self-help basis, with the people providing the labor. We expect the steady flow of these schoolhouses to our barrios to start by next month. Meanwhile, the emphasis on vocational education is being increased and the community school movement, using the methods of grass-roots democracy, is being extended throughout the country.

The Social Welfare Administration has expanded its services to the rural areas and is taking an active part in community self-help projects. This is being done in accordance with a planned shift from relief to self-help activities. At the same time, it has carried on more effective disaster relief operations and maintained essential welfare and rehabilitation services.

These varied social measures—for better health, wider opportunities for education, and more gainful employment—are now being carried out, with the use of more efficient techniques of community development. Coordination and integration on a national scale will be effected through the newly-created National Community Development Planning Council.

As a result of our combined efforts in agricultural extension work and community development through self-help, total production in agriculture increased appreciably last year. National production of the principal food items reached 7.2 million metric tons, showing a self-sufficiently ratio of 114.6 per cent. But this achievement is still short of consumption requirements in such critical items as meat and poultry, milk and dairy products, cacao and coffee.

Despite vigorous measures, we have not as yet solved stubborn rice problem. Palay production was not enough for our people's needs. But deficiencies in marketing, warehousing, and financing prevented the rice from reaching the consumer at fair prices.

The NARIC should, therefore, be provided with enough funds for stabilization operations. The coordination of the activities of the NARIC and the FACOMAS must be improved.

As a further measure to increase rice production, the carabao, indispensable to most of our farmers, must continue to be protected from slaughter. To improve our nutrition, other livestock must be increased in number. We note that during the past year, the number of our carabaos rose to 2.7 million, showing an increase of about nine per cent. Because of this increase and the ban on their slaughter, the price of carabaos has gone down considerably, making it easier for the poor farmers to acquire them.

As we shift from deficiency to surplus production in the next two or three years, we must meet the problems of marketing and processing. Together with the farmer's cooperatives, private trade organizations will have to assume the brunt of responsibility for the efficient handling of our principal products. We should, therefore, encourage more of our people to go into these activities.

At the same time, the Government should continue its policy of maintaining the floor price for rice and other principal products as an incentive to real, substantial gains in production.

LABOR

When this Administration assumed office, we promised to encourage free unionism under responsible leadership. We have kept our pledge. The number of workers organized into labor unions nearly doubled during the past year. This means that labor has improved its collective bargaining position for better wages and working conditions.

The Government's role in this growing movement has been, not to dominate as in the past, but to provide the necessary guidance so that will be free, democratic, and responsible. Among other activities to achieve this end, short-term regional schools on responsible labor leadership have been conducted in different regions of the Philippines. This program, together with a similar training program for employer and management groups, will be expanded until we shall have brought about better understanding of labor and its problems.

By and large, labor-management relations improved. More collective bargaining agreements were signed. With further encouragement, many more will be signed this year.

The enforcement of laws and measures for the protection of workers was intensified. The Workmen's Compensation Commission finished twice as many cases as it did in 1953. The Wage Administration Service (WAS) secured for worker claimants a total of 1.5 million pesos in wage restitutions.

On the subject of wages, I would like to reiterate my conviction that only the most compelling reasons clearly related to the national interest could justify changes in the Minimum Wage Law. This Administration will not lightly regard any action that may adversely affect the workman's continuing struggle for a decent life.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the field of industrial development, some progress has been achieved by private enterprise with government stimulus and encouragement. Induced by tax exemptions, 72 new industrial plants were established during the year. More processing industries are utilizing local raw materials.

Encouraging results in manufacturing and processing are evident from the increase by 28.2 per cent in the output of reporting manufacturing establishments, which amounted to 752 million pesos in 1954, compared to 586.5 million pesos in 1953. Another index of the improving industrial situation is the increase by 24.5 per cent in capital-goods imports, amounting to 125.2 million pesos, for the first eight months of 1954, compared to the same period in 1953.

To supplement private enterprise, the Government has taken direct measures to promote certain industries. During the year under review, the cement plant at Bacnotan, La Union, was completed and the Insular Sugar Refining Company (INSUREFCO) reopened. The Government has organized the machinery to handle the promotion and development of the coconut and tobacco industries.

On the other hand, the Government has leased the Manila Hotel to private enterprise announced the sale to private operators of three ocean-going vessels owned by the National Development Company, and withdrawn from international airline operations. It is also considering other measures in this direction, in accordance with its policy of confining its investment activities to those phases of development essential to the public welfare.

Likewise in line with the policy just stated, the Government has advanced the power development program, an essential pre-requisite to industrial growth. During the year, the Talomo No.2-B hydro-electric plant in Davao was completed. Work continued according to schedule on two big projects at Ambuklao and Cristina, with a combined capacity of 100,000 KW—as well as on four smaller hydro-electric projects at Digos and Talomo, Davao; Balombong, Catanduanes; and Amburavan, La Union. Work has been started on four more small hydro-electric projects, with a total capacity of 4,500 KW located at Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija; Loboc, Bohol; Barit, Camarines Sur; and Agusan River, Bukidnon.

Viewed against the immensity of our needs, these developments are modest, indeed. They do not measure up to our hopes of a greatly accelerated industrial pace that would provide work and abundance for our people.

But they do indicate the significant fact that we are steadily forging ahead. What is more, an atmosphere of optimism and enterprise has been gradually developing and is becoming manifest in the form of actual projects and those in prospect this year. This has been accompanied by a growing realization of the necessity of providing incentives for and promoting industrial growth.

Last year, I recommend in my state-of-the-nation message that we support our own economic pioneers and set up a stable basis under which foreign investors can put their capital to work in this country.

Congressional policy on these matters is as necessary as executive action. I, therefore, reiterate my previous recommendations. To particularize, I would urge the adoption of legislation embodying the following policies:

Our Government should give full encouragement to the establishment by private enterprise of new industries which will advance economy. Our development program must be based, and should rely mainly, on internal financing. We must promote the widest and most effective utilization of our resources.

We will welcome foreign capital. To encourage and facilitate its entry, we should specify the conditions governing the repatriation of capital, the remittance of profits and earnings, the protection of foreign investment, and other essential conditions.

I cannot over-emphasize the urgent need for these measures. We are facing a tremendous unemployment problem. The direct, practical way of meeting it is to create jobs through the establishment of new industries.

NATIONAL FINANCES

The country's financial position is stronger today that it was a year ago.

The banking system is more sound. According to Central Bank data, as of October 31, 1954, total bank resources amounted to P1,335,000,000, showing an increase of P64,600,00 compared to those of the same period in 1953. Total deposits amounted to P964,300,000, increasing by about nine per cent. Saving and time deposits in all banks amounted to P414,800,000, showing an increase of P61,500,000. While the financial status of the banking system is sound, their lending operations need improvement.

As of September 30, 1954, the total loans granted by all banks amounted to P337,800,000, which sum is greater by P28,400,000 than that of the previous year. Of these total loans granted, those for commercial and real estate purposes increased considerably, while those for industry and agriculture decreased. This decline indicates that we have not as yet changed the customary pattern of bank lending in this country. I realize that complex forces make it difficult to bring about the desired shift which will give due emphasis to industrial and development loan financing. But this re-orientation in objectives is imperative.

A re-examination should be made of our lending policies with a view of expanding development loans. I would urge Congress to examine the various proposals on this matter and enact implementing legislation either to extend the operations of our existing credit institutions or to establish new financing machinery for industrial and agricultural development.

We should also consider the extension of more substantial credit assistance to small enterprisers and producers. The recent credit assistance given by the Philippine National Bank and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to small producers of rice, cassava, citrus, ramie, coffee, and livestock, is in the right direction.

We have maintained our international reserves at a satisfactory level through the exchange control measures of the Central Bank. There have been, however, an unfavorable balance of trade amounting to 93.7 million pesos, and an adverse balance of international payments, amounting to 13.6 dollars, as of November 30, 1954. These are symptoms of fundamental defects in our economy. They must be remedied to attain internal stability.

One remedial measure is the conservation of our dollar reserves through the proper allocation of dollars among top-priority imports, giving special emphasis to capital-building items, raw materials, and basic necessities.

A more permanent approach to this problem would be the adoption of program to promote foreign trade and to increase our exports. I would, therefore, ask Congress to consider the advisability of creating a Foreign Trade Commission to plan a foreign trade program and pursue its implementation; the establishment of Bureau of Standards in the Department of Commerce and Industry, to help standardize Philippine products, especially those for export; and the creation of a Maritime Commission that will undertake the promotion and development of adequate water transportation. Proper incentives for the increase of our exports should be seriously considered.

In connection with the foreign trade program, I wish to emphasize that the proposed revision of our trade agreement with the United States will require vital readjustments in our economy. We should anticipate and be prepared to meet the impact of the new situation.

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

In the first year of this Administration, Government finances improved.

In my state-of-the-nation message last year, I stated that the ordinary operational expenses should never exceed the total revenues in any fiscal year. This we have complied with.

For the first eleven months of last year, the General Fund income totaled P545,949,737.13, against total expenditures of P535,197,009.81, thus showing a surplus of P10,752,727.32.

In the same period of the preceding calendar year, the deficit amounted to P48,739,577.25

Thus, the practice of deficit spending for ordinary operating expenses has become a thing of the past.

Revenue collections increase by P43,789,669.84. This is the result of greater effort in tax collection, as well as a manifestation of the new confidence in the Government.

We have succeeded in reducing the operating expenses of the Government by P37,967,112.26. Since December 31, 1953, we have succeeded in restoring to the various special funds a total of nine million pesos, out of 17 million pesos owed by the General Fund under the past administration.

On the other hand, we have increase capital expenditures for economic development by 22.3 million pesos during the past year. This is an investment in the economic stability and security of this country.

Our public debt, as of December 31, 1954, was P1,168,000,000 of which 848 million pesos was incurred by the National Government; 253 million pesos by government corporations; and 67 million pesos by provincial, city, and municipal governments. The increase of 65.4 million pesos in the public debt outstanding by the end of 1954 was largely due to the Administration's policy of accelerating economic development. This is evidence by additional issues of Rehabilitation Finance Corporation (RFC) bonds aggregating P59,000,000, increased flotation of National Power Corporation (NPC) bonds amounting to P6,400,000,000 ACCFA obligations of P7,000,000, and the sale of new public works and economic development bonds totaling P11,900,000. However, budgetary debts contracted by previous administrations have been reduced by P18,900,000.

The improvement in government finances during the first year of this Administration does not mean, however, that we are anywhere near solution of the Government's financial problem. The General Fund deficit and the unrecorded obligations of the Government, amounting to P275,260,000 as of December 31, 1953, must still be settled. Outstanding budgetary loans amounting to P160,000,000, plus P550,000,000 in backpay obligations, must be paid.

It must be clear by now that even with the increase in revenue by P43,700,000, the ordinary income of the Government is not enough to provide for all essential services. Among these are the training of reserves for the citizens' army, the restoration of the seventh grade in the elementary schools, and the salary adjustments of teachers and other government employees, which have been deferred. Some important projects had to be curtailed. We are studying these problems very seriously, especially the salary adjustments of teachers. I will send you a special message on these matters in due time.

Owing mainly to fund limitation, our program of capital expenditures for top-priority public development projects and public works has not been fully implemented.

Thus, our principal difficulty today, as at the beginning of our Administration, is still lack of funds. I would urge Congress, therefore, to give full consideration to the need for additional appropriations to expand and improve the tax collecting agencies, particularly the Internal Revenue and the Customs bureaus.

I must reiterate my previous recommendation for legislation imposing heavier penalties for tax evasion.

Realizing that our current tax collection are not sufficient to provide for all essential public services, we must redouble our efforts to improve the tax collection machinery so that all the essential operating expenses of the public service could be met.

The financing of capital investments and permanent public improvements for economic development is another matter. We must be prepared to increase existing tax rates, levy new taxes, or resort to public borrowing for the purpose of accelerating or economic development.

However, we must not countenance the use of this last-mentioned method of financing for operating expenses, except in very extreme cases involving national calamities.

ECONOMIC PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

In my state-of-the-nation message to Congress last year, I emphasized the need for a coordinated program of economic development.

At my behest, the staff of the National Economic Council drafted a five-year program, the general outlines of which I presented to the nation in an address at the Far Eastern University on March 20, 1954. The modest record which I have just reviewed, follows the general pattern and objectives of that program.

Our five-year plan has never been intended to be the last word in economic planning. It is a continuing one. It is to be revised and updated each year, on the basis of past performance, changing conditions, and the prospects of further advance.

In this constant work of revision, constructive criticism is always welcome. I am happy to note the mounting interest in the first revision of the program now underway, which indicates popular support of this Administration's objective of coordinated and integrated economic development.

I must reiterate, however, the recommendation made in my state-of-the-nation message last year for the revitalization of the National Economic Council (NEC) as a really effective agency to plan and put into effect the economic development program. I would also recommend other essential administrative and organizational reforms to fully implement the program, such as the establishment of a development financing agency to arrange for the financing requirements of the program.

We have found that fundamental weaknesses in the existing administrative machinery cannot be corrected by administrative action. These will continue to hamper our efforts, as they have in the past unless corrected by legislation.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

While we have devoted much of our energies to the problems at home, our international relations have not been neglected. Our foreign policy has served as an effective instrument in the promotion of the national interest.

As I have noted, we have strengthened our national security through various defense arrangements.

Similarly, we have made progress towards economic stability. The most important step in this direction was the conclusion of the negotiations for the revision of our trade relations with the United States. The Philippine Economic Mission headed by Senator Jose P. Laurel deserves the gratitude of our people.

The spirit of mutual respect and understanding in which the negotiations were conducted reflects credit equally on the Philippines and the United States. It is yet another manifestations of the desire of both countries to maintain their close and mutually beneficial relations.

Here at home Philippine-American collaboration was closet in the joint undertaking to assist our country's economic development, through the PHILCUSA-FOA program. With the wholehearted cooperation of the FOA mission staff, we have succeeded in speeding up the various projects, many of which are now being transferred as regular operating units of the different agencies of our Government.

I trust that Congress will continue to provide the necessary counterpart funds as well as the supplementary appropriations needed to operate the essential projects in this effective joint aid program.

We have also strengthened our ties with several Asian countries. Diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea have been established. We have extended official recognition to the new sovereign states of Laos and Cambodia. We have reached agreement with the Republic of Indonesia on the problem of immigration.

At the Manila Conference held last September, we helped advance the cause of freedom and self-determination in Asia by our sponsorship of the Pacific Charter and its unanimous approval.

In the interest of peace and economic progress in this region, we joined the Colombo plan as a full-fledged member. We have continued to cooperate with the Arab-Asian members of the United Nations in matters of common concern.

In the United Nations, we have actively cooperated with like-minded states in strengthening the fabric of international peace and security. We shall continue to uphold the United Nations Charter.

The balance sheet of our international relations shows encouraging gains. But we still have before us a catalogue of unfinished business.

The reparations questions remains to be settled. There is urgent need for the full implementation of the United States military assistance. The system of joint military defense and economic collaboration envisaged in the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty is yet to be worked out. The signatories to this Treaty are due to meet soon in Bangkok. I hope that the Treaty may be ratified by the Senate before that meeting. The proposed revision of our trade agreement with the United States will require action on your part. I shall address a special message to you on this matter at the appropriate time.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

This Administration has made every effort to secure for our people the material benefits of democracy. It has worked equally hard to build up the spiritual strength of the nation.

To this end, we have insisted upon the strict observance of morality in the conduct of government business. We have moved swiftly and sternly against proven acts of abuse, injustice, and corruption. On the other hand, we have gone out of our way to commend worthy and civic-spirited acts.

The Government has looked promptly into reported irregularities. The Presidential Complaints and Action Committee has rendered valuable assistance in this regard. It has helped to make the Government truly a government of the people.

In the past, many of our people who had legitimate complaints did not air their grievances because of distrust or fear. Others thought it useless to go to a government deaf to their pleas. Under this Administration, the people in their simple faith have not hesitated to come forward for redress.

Out of 59,144 complaints received by the PCAC up to the end of last year, 31,876 cases were closed and 26,780 were being followed up in the different government offices. In the PCAC itself only 497 cases were still pending. What cannot be expressed by these or other statistics is the service agency has performed in demonstrating to our people that this is a Government truly responsive to their will and their needs. The PCAC has done a good job and should be given every facility to carry on its important task.

I am aware of our people's desire to see quick results in punishing the guilty and ridding the Government of those who would pull it down by their greed and dishonesty. We are pledged to satisfy that desire by every legitimate means.

However, we cannot, we must not ignore the democratic processes which it is our duty to uphold. I must state once more that under this Government, no one—whether friend or foe, citizen or alien—no one will be denied due process and the equal protection of the law. But, consistent with these principles consecrated by our free way of life we will continue to wage uncompromising war on corruption and abuse. Respect for basic human rights must continue to be one of our prime concerns. We must live up to our pledge to act as guardians of the dignity and worth of the individual.

THE YEAR AHEAD

These are the things that have been done and the things that still must be done. The past year has been, above all, a record of the achievements of the people themselves. It has also been witness to our honest endeavors in the task of enriching our people's.

To be sure, the high hopes of our people have not all been fulfilled. Some of the things expected of us have not been done—or not done well enough—perhaps because they simply could not be done; perhaps because we have not had time enough to do them; perhaps because we have been momentarily distracted from our task.

Let us admit: among some of our people, there is impatience—the impatience of great expectations born of the boundless faith reposed upon us by our people.

Far from discouraging us, this should give us fresh inspiration to outdo ourselves, to live up to our people's faith, to spend ourselves to the limit to promote their happiness.

Far from dividing us, it should bring us closer together. Our people have closed ranks; we can do no less. Nothing useful, nothing permanent, can be built on a foundation of disunity. More than ever before—in all matters involving the common welfare—we must provide a united leadership worthy of the confidence and support of all our people.

It is with this firm resolve that we should—together—look forward to the year before us.

The goal set is high. The accumulation of past and present problems, heavy. But you and I face them squarely—not alone, but with our great people at our side, equally determined to achieve the impossible, equally eager to give their all, that our nation may live in dignity and freedom.

May God look upon us today and give us the strength and wisdom to serve our people devotedly and well.

Message of President Magsaysay at the Training Conference on Performance Budgeting

**Message
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Opening Session of the Training Conference on Performance Budgeting**

[Read by Commissioner Aytone on May 3, 1955]

TO THE GOVERNMENT WORKERS ATTENDING THE TRAINING
CONFERENCE ON PERFORMANCE BUDGET PREPARATION:

I send you greetings on the occasion of the opening of your Training Conference and best wishes for the success of your joint work together.

We in the Philippines have made much progress in building a stronger nation and seeking a better life for our people. But our hopes and aims for improvement and progress can be fully realized only when we have more completely solved numerous problems and obstacles which face us—distributing land, making health services available to all, creating more job opportunities, to mention a few. More and more it is evident that one major obstacle to the achievement of our desires and demands for governmental services has been our antiquated machinery for providing these services. The time has come to modernize our management in government so that it can effectively and economically serve our people.

Several steps are in process to achieve this modernization. One is the work of the Wage and Position Classification Office, which will result in equitable salary administration in the government. Another is the work of the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission. There are now pending 55 reorganization plans which I have transmitted to Congress and which when implemented will provide an effective organization for carrying government services to the people. A third phase of management modernization is the improvement of budgeting and accounting practices. In the budget field, this change was set in motion by the passage of Republic Act 992, the Revised Budget Act, which requires performance budgeting. All of these and other improvements in management methods will enable us to use our limited government resources more effectively toward raising the standard of living of our people, thus enabling them to enjoy a fuller and happier life.

Performance budgeting is then a part of a broad historical development of great significance to our country. You who are here are to be instruments of this development, for our forward progress depends not only on the actions and understanding of Congress, commissions, departmental secretaries, and bureau chiefs, but especially on the whole-hearted support and understanding of the permanent employees of the government who provide the technical skills so necessary to any successful enterprise.

In this Training Conference you will begin to learn the new skills needed to give competent technical support to your chiefs in this necessary and essential venture into modern budgeting. With faith in the forward movement of your government and your country which your efforts can in part make possible, you will, I am confident, raise your own standards of service and create a record of substantial achievement in the performance of your duties.

I wish you every success.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's message read by Commissioner Aytone at the opening session of the Training Conference on Performance Budgeting, May 3, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(5), 2352-2353.

Ramon Magsaysay, Third State of the Nation Address, January 23, 1956

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 23, 1956]

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

We are at the half-way mark of our tenure. It is time, I believe, to restate the basic philosophy of our Administration.

When our term began, I announced that the happiness and security of the common man would be foremost among our goals. With material help we would enable him to achieve self-competence, prosperity, and contentment. With spiritual guidance we would foster in him a wholesome attitude toward work, toward his Government, and toward his fellowmen.

Let me emphasize at this point that my concern for the common man is not merely sentimental or emotional. It is a hard fact that a nation cannot survive without the safe foundation of a prosperous and contented majority of its citizens.

We believe that what is good for the common man is good for the whole country. Every policy of our Administration has therefore been directed to his welfare. We have anchored our national destiny to the common man.

In this endeavor we have addressed ourselves, first of all, to the task of rural development. In the rural areas lies the bulk of our natural and human resources, the real wealth of our nation. We must gear them to each other and spark the latter into action so as to achieve expanding production to meet the requirements of national prosperity and security.

Our accomplishments in the rural areas constitute, I believe, the most concrete achievement of this Administration. We have gone a long way in giving our rural inhabitants the material means to prosperity and improvement.

Foremost of these is land.

During the last special session you enacted Republic Act No. 1400, known as the Land Tenure Reform Law. The Administration established by this law has taken the first steps to acquire landed estates for redistribution.

The NARRA continued to do a commendable job of resettling families in public lands. During the year 1955 it distributed homesteads to eight thousand eight hundred families in 22 settlement projects.[1] It is prepared henceforth to resettle at least twelve thousand families a year. The flow of voluntary settlers in public lands also increased last year as a result of the accelerated surveys being undertaken by the Bureau of Lands.[2] But land alone is not enough. We are also building barrio roads[3] and irrigation systems[4] and placing agricultural experts at the service of our farmers and settlers. In this way they learn scientific agriculture, obtain indispensable water to expand the productivity of the land, and gain easy access to markets for their produce. At the same time new areas are opened up for cultivation.

The fast spreading ACCFA movement has continued to free more and more of our small farmers from exploitation.[5] ACCFA loans, which last year amounted to thirty-eight million four hundred thousand pesos,[6] have enabled FACOMA members to buy and own their carabaos[7] as well as farm equipment and supplies. Through the

extension of FACOMA marketing facilities, small farmers are receiving more money for their products. The increase in the total income of farmers-members last year alone is estimated at more than eighty million pesos.

Definitely, the ACCFA points the way to rural stability and progress. We must continue to give it determined support.

The credit needs of our small farmers are being met from other sources.[8] Last year the Philippine National Bank, the RFC, and the rural banks extended loans to more farmer borrowers. It is, however, necessary to continue expanding credit for rural development.

The improvement of health in the rural areas is another tangible achievement. Many more towns and barrios are now assured of potable water from artesian wells[9] and water systems.[10] Mobile health units, now numbering over one thousand, performed more than ten million work units[11] in a three-month period of operation alone during 1955, providing medical services varying from simple consultations to child delivery and reaching places where no medical service had ever been available before. The complete eradication of malaria within the next three years is now within sight.

Comprehensive as are the material services and benefits extended to our rural inhabitants, this Administration has paralleled them with mental and spiritual stimulation. In this work we have made full use of education in all its aspects.

Barrio schools are increasing.[12] In them children are acquiring not only the basic tools of knowledge but also the skills of hand that can lead to a more abundant life.

Mainly to benefit rural children, who can afford no more than a few years of schooling, a revolutionary experiment is being introduced. Instead of English, the local dialects are now being used in the first two years of the elementary in many school divisions. Further result will, however, bear careful evaluation before the change may be universally adopted.

With encouragement from the Government, civic-spirited private organizations are helping to educate our people. Among these are the agricultural councils. The barrio assemblies, the 4-H clubs, and the *purok* associations.[13]

The establishment of barrio councils pursuant to Republic Act No. 1408 is another stride toward the strengthening of democracy at the grassroots. It is a good beginning but needs additional means of implementation to give it substance and practical effect. With these new organs of self-expression and self-government, our barrio people will display more initiative in improving their respective communities.

But unless Godliness and morality suffuse the outlook of our people, no objective achieved will be truly satisfying and enduring. We have therefore continued to emphasize the development of these attributes in the character of our youth as one of the fundamental objectives of our educational system.

While we have concentrated on rural development as our first and most important task, we have also endeavored to help the common man along other lines.

Under the Administration, labor has gained in stature with its greater participation in public affairs. In matters affecting labor itself, we have not hesitated to seek directly the counsel of its spokesmen, and its representatives now sit in the National Economic Council. The National Board of Education, the boards of various government corporations, and the Labor-Management Advisory Council of the Department of Labor.

The healthy growth of trade unions continues, while the workers' increasing awareness of their rights and responsibilities is being matched by an expanding labor service on the part of the Government.[14]

The time has arrived for us to make a start on extending to labor the benefits of a social security system. However, we have had to delay the implementation of the Social Security Act because of our desire to assure the success of such a system by building it on a stable foundation rather than risk failure through a hasty start.

I recommend that the Congress give careful consideration to the review of the law, so that we may soon begin to establish a sound security system.

We have always recognized the necessity of providing low-cost housing for our working people. While financial difficulties have retarded our efforts to this end, we have embarked on various housing programs. The People's Homesite and Housing Corporation is expanding low-rental housing for urban workers and the Home Financing Commission is ready to undertake aided self-help housing in the small communities, as well as private housing under a system of insured mortgages.[15]

Acknowledging their invaluable services to our people, we have provided for the adjustment of the salaries of the thousands of teachers who are themselves part of the low income group we seek to help, as well as active participants in the work of that group's uplift.

Our Government's deep concern for the common man is the logical first step toward imbuing the Filipino way of life with the true substance of democracy. Our people must be assisted to the richer rewards of effort but, at the same time, shown that those rewards are won through hard work and integrity. We must nurture in them self-respect, self-reliance, competence, and an ever awake social conscience—qualities that we must develop first of all at the base, as the foundation of the solidarity and greatness of our nation. In our striving for fulfillment as a people, we believe in working from the ground up—in the factories, in the *sitios*, in the *barrios*, in the towns of our rural areas—in the conviction that genuine democracy moves upward and not downward.

On the overall level, the national welfare has also advanced.

We have strengthened our friendship with other free countries. In the Bandung Conference, we forged closer ties with Asian and African nations and effectively collaborated with them in achieving unity. In the United Nations we secured Asian representation and membership in the Security Council, although incompletely, by splitting a two-year term with Yugoslavia. We have continued to promote international understanding through various international conferences, some of which were held in our country.

Continuing our fruitful collaboration with the United States, we have made good use of American economic aid in developing some of the activities I have already described. Under our mutual defense treaty with the United States and the Manila Pact, we have further strengthened the national security.

On the domestic front, peace and order are at their highest peak in postwar years. All but a few areas have been liberated from the terror of banditry and the Communist-led uprising.[16] However, against the backdrop of the new Communist diplomatic and economic offensive that has brought the "cold war" to a new crisis. Alien agents and saboteurs have attempted new and direct penetration and subversion. But, alert to their inroads, we have swiftly tracked them down and are prepared to meet every further outbreak of this new peril with vigor and firmness.

The year's end witnessed an important turning point in our national economy. The era of free trade with the United States came to a close, and new graduated tariff duties were imposed on American imports. With this and other basic changes in our trade relations with the United States we can now lay the basis for a stable economy. It is now up to us to build that economy with determination and dedication.

The national production, estimated at eight billion eight hundred million pesos, increased by nearly four percent over that of last year. This was due to some progress in industrialization and a slight increase in agricultural production.[17] Large outlays for public works and development projects and additional public investments through government-owned corporations[18] made some contribution to the increase. Significant production gains have been made in some manufacturing lines.

I must state, however, that this increase in national production hardly evinces a balanced growth pattern. There is imperative need for the coordination and more vigorous implementation of the Government's policies and the intensification of our efforts to stimulate production.

An integrated credit pattern is shaping up. The public and private banking institutions are gradually developing a balanced pattern of commercial, industrial, and agricultural loans. A good start has been made in giving special credit support to long-range development projects. The flow of credit should, however, be channeled so as to follow still more closely the main direction of our economic plans.

We have effected field surveys and investigation of our mineral deposits, the location of underground waters for both irrigation and potable water supply, and the survey and delineation of additional fishery areas and forest lands that may be made available for commercial exploitation. All these are intended to expand the utilization of our abundant natural resources. It is our hope that these resources surveys and investigations will make private enterprises fully aware of our potentialities and induce them to participate in our country's development.

During the first ten months of the year 1955, rising local production, coupled with controls over non-essential imports, brought prices and the cost of living to record low levels since 1952.[19]However, mainly because of speculation in anticipation of new tariffs on American imports as well as the new tariff schedules and the expecting tightening of exchange controls, prices began to rise toward the end of the year and the trend still continues. The hoarding of imported stocks has become evident. It is equally evident that the rise in the prices of many articles of commerce, including basic necessities, not affected or only slightly affected by the new tariffs, is artificial and unjustified.

I recommend that the Congress consider means to prevent the spiraling of prices of essential commodities, either by a well-studied price control system or other effective measures. In the meanwhile, the Executive Department will use all the means at its command, including NAMARCO's merchandising operations, to hold prices in line.

I would like to express here our appreciation of the cooperation that civic-spirited business organizations and individuals have preferred to the Government in this endeavor.

Another problem that looms large in our mind is unemployment. Its causes are numerous and complex, but this is not the occasion to consider them in detail.

Nevertheless, I take note of this serious problem to underscore its urgency and to emphasize upon all our people, particularly those in business and in the Government, the need for devoting all our energies, all our intelligence, all our zeal to the task of providing and creating opportunities for our people to make a decent living. The guideposts which I shall presently outline contain specific measures to meet this difficulty.

In brief outline, this is the record of the year past. It tells us that while something has been done. Our responsibility is not yet fully fulfilled. But this I know: We have hit our stride. We can and will succeed.

Our people have begun the peaceful revolution of uprooting age-old injustices and social evils and of elevating themselves to their true worth and dignity.

We must preserve and consolidate our gains and accelerate our forward pace.

I wish to emphasize that there is no change in our approach to the country's problems. There is no departure from our basic economic objectives and policies which in past year I outlined to you.

So that our partnership in national duty and responsibility may produce increasing results, I invite you, as you perform your important share of our common task, to keep the following guideposts in view:

Our first guidepost is self-sufficiency in primary foodstuffs.

Blessed with vast expanses of fertile land, we have the basic means to stop the recurring food shortages. We must attain self-sufficiency at least in the basic food.

Fortunately, we have succeeded in developing some effective incentives to production, such as the maintenance of floor prices in rice and corn and the expansion of credit and marketing facilities. We should now consider the feasibility of extending these incentives to other essential foods.

To sustain our gains, I have directed the NARIC, the ACCFA, and other agencies concerned to coordinate their efforts with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources toward the early attainment of self-sufficiency in food.

Our second guidepost is the acceleration of land reform.

Because land ownership remains the greatest incentive to productivity and contentment among our masses, we are speeding up land distribution. The salutary impact of the Land Tenure Reform Act will soon be added to the efforts of the NARRA, the ACCFA, and the Bureau of Lands.

I invite the Congress to continue its interest in land reform and devise other means of further intensifying our efforts along this line.

Our third guidepost is the establishment of a strong administrative machinery for community development.

As we diversify our efforts to stimulate community development, the establishment of a coordinating and implementing machinery becomes more urgent. I recommend that the Congress consider the creation of such an instrumentality to undertake this task.

I suggest that the Congress consider measures to make the local governments financially self-sufficient and more effective in community development. If deemed necessary, an organization should be created to undertake studies on this matter.

Our fourth guidepost is the fuller utilization of our natural resources in economic development.

Our main hope of providing more employment to our people lies in the fuller utilization of our abundant natural resources. It is essential that existing as well as new industries make greater use of our available raw materials and develop those that can be produced locally. We should, therefore, give continued emphasis to industries and enterprises that will utilize more of our available materials and resources, as against those which are largely dependent on imported raw materials. Unless this is done, it will be well nigh impossible to build a sound economy.

To promote this objective, I recommend that the Congress provide funds for the continuance and expansion of our resources surveys and investigations.

Our fifth guidepost is the improvement of monetary and credit management to accelerate economic development.

The expansion of credit facilities coupled with the proper allocation of foreign exchange is an effective stimulus to agricultural and industrial production. There should now be developed an integrated system of economic priorities to govern the extension of credit and the allocation of dollars. I have, therefore, directed the National Economic Council to develop such a system in concert with the Central Bank, giving preference to projects and enterprises which will make greater use of our available resources and which have high-income and employment potential.

I have directed the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation and the Central Bank to coordinate their activities and expedite the granting of loans and foreign exchange allocations to qualified agricultural and industrial enterprises.

I have also directed the Philippine National bank and, through the Central Bank, the rural banks all over the country to re-examine their lending operations with a view to giving greater support to small merchants and producers.

Our sixth guidepost is the adoption of educational reforms geared to the requirement of scientific and economic progress.

We must revitalize our educational system with emphasize on general, scientific, and vocational education.

The proposal to have an undersecretary for vocational education merits careful study. We should give full support to the improvement of instruction and facilities in public agricultural, trade, and technical schools.

The decreasing emphasis on the natural and physical sciences runs counter to the rapidly developing era of electronics and atomics. If we are to participate fully in the blessings of science, we must recast our educational system to train more engineers and scientists. As a beginning, mathematics and physics should again be taught as compulsory in high schools.

Our seventh guidepost is the need for scientific research as a basis of economic and social development.

Fundamental and applied research has long been neglected. In science and scholarship we have largely depended on progress abroad. It is time that we participate seriously in this enterprise, paying particular attention to our needs.

As one of the first steps, I have created a Science Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the principal scientific organizations.

I urge the Congress to provide more funds for scientific research and investigation. I suggest that an appropriation be set aside for this purpose.

It would also be desirable to establish an Institute of Economic Development and Research in the University of the Philippines to provide not only our students but also those neighboring Asian countries with the advanced training essential to accelerated development.

We should provide inducements for private philanthropy for the benefit of scientific research. One way of doing this is to adopt a far-sighted tax policy in donations and grants for scientific research and investigation.

The eighth guidepost is the redefinition of the incentives for private enterprise.

The insufficiency and timidity of capital, domestic and foreign, has been one of the principal reasons for the delay in our economic development. We should now dissipate the uncertainty in our investment atmosphere and, consistent with the national interest, give to investors the necessary incentives and guarantees.

I trust that the Congress will enact in this session legislation fully meeting this problem.

It is part of our efforts to clarify the goals of our economic growth and the means with which we seek to attain them. Among them are the economic controls. While we are for their gradual removal, they remain necessary at this stage of our economic development. They must be utilized to assure the most advantageous allocation of our limited resources and thus maintain monetary and price stability.

Improvements must be effected in the implementation of controls. But sudden policy changes which tend to dislocate business should be avoided.

I urge the Congress to consider amendments to the Central Bank Charter which would render the Monetary Board more effective in the administration of exchange and the management of money and credit.

In this connection, I would urge that at least three of the members of the Monetary Board serve on a full time basis.

The Central Bank Charter should be amended further to provide for a more liberal rediscounting system so as to enlarge the lending operations of our banks.

We should re-examine the no-dollar import law, define its objectives and scope, and examine its performance in the light of experience to date.

Our tariff structure should be further studied to give full protection to our vital industries. It would also be advisable to renew the authority granted to the President under Republic Act No. 1196 to increase or reduce tariff rates for at least two more years.

Our ninth guidepost is the stabilization of the fiscal position of the Government.

At the bottom of our slow progress in some areas of public service is the insufficiency of public revenues. I therefore urge the Congress to study the following aspects of our fiscal organization with a view to increasing government revenues:

First, the necessity of setting up a tax commission to undertake technical studies of our tax system and recommend improvements;

Second, the further raising of the efficiency of our revenue collecting agencies; and,

Third, the revision of our tax laws where such revisions are deemed urgent, pending the studies by the tax commission.

I shall presently submit to you a report which the Tax Advisory Board has just completed for your consideration.

Our tenth guidepost is the need for raising efficiency in public administration.

The implementation of sound and well-planned projects often bogs down owing to inefficiency in public administration. We must, therefore, continue to buttress our administrative units, especially those directly concerned with economic development.

We have completed the wage and position classification survey and a project on the improvement of budgeting, accounting, and auditing procedures in the Government. We should now apply the results of these studies to effect economy and efficiency.

Our initial experience in performance budgeting in twelve government bureaus has produced beneficial results. We should now extend it to more government agencies.

The most inspiring laws and the best-conceived plans of implementing them are often frustrated by administrative inertia and incompetence.

Realizing this I have created a Presidential Performance Commission and entrusted it with the duty of keeping close watch on performance and result in the executive agencies and instrumentalities of the Government. Energetic, intelligent, and dedicated service at every level is indispensable to the success of Government.

I commend these guideposts to your thoughtful consideration in the full confidence that they will give our joint efforts a common unswerving direction.

In our task, I call upon our people to continue giving us their earnest support. This is their share of responsibility implicit in their twice-entrusted mandate under which we assumed the nation's leadership.

Our times demand selflessness and self-sacrifice. The insincere, the dishonest, the selfish, the greedy, the laggard have no place.

With God continuing His kind blessings upon us, we shall not be found wanting.

[1] In 1955, the NARRA also facilitated the issuance of 3,600 land titles to its settlers.

[2] The number of patents approved by the Bureau of Lands reached 33,075 in 1955 as against 28,409 in 1954 and 15,063 in 1952. The number of agricultural lots distributed to landless applicants in 1955 was 23,578 as against 18,842 in 1954. There were also 401, 425 hectares of land surveyed in 1955 as against 456,000 hectares in 1954.

[3] In 1955, 565 kilometers of new roads were opened to traffic as against 252 kilometers in 1954. The length of roads improved and paved reached 1,194 kilometers in 1955 as compared to 485 kilometers in 1954, while the length of 83 bridge projects completed in 1955 reached 2,890 lineal meters as against 23 bridge projects completed in 1954 with a total length of 1,223 lineal meters.

[4] The number of national and communal irrigation projects completed reached 143. Forty are under construction, out of a total of 183 planned in 1955, serving an irrigable area of 60, 114 hectares, as against nine projects completed in 1954, serving a total area of 16,200 hectares. There were also 30 irrigation pumps installed in 1955 covering an area of 7,386 hectares.

[5] In 1955, 90 additional cooperative marketing associations were organized, with a total membership of 85,000 farmers and total paid-up capitalization of P1.6 million. By December 31, 1955, a total of 319 FACOMAs were operating, with a total membership of 188,000 farmers located in 7,759 barrios scattered over 42 provinces with a total paid-up capital of nearly P3 million.

[6] Total loans to the farmer-members through their FACOMAs amounted to P15.6 million in the previous year. By the end of 1955, total loans to the co-ops and their members reached P56.8 million. P8.8 million of which enabled 33,368 farmers to purchase their own carabaos, farm tools, and equipment and supplies.

[7] The number of carabaos has increased by about 340,000 from 1954 to 1955.

[8] Total loans granted by the banking system in 1955 amounted to P436.4 million for all types of loans, showing an increase of 8.7 per cent over those granted in 1954. Loans granted for commercial purposes increased by 10.7 per cent.; those for industrial purposes, by 4.7 per cent; while for agricultural purposes dropped by 8.3 per cent.

[9] In 1955, 1,610 artesian wells were completed as against 1,216 in 1954, making a total of 2,826 wells in the last two years.

[10] There were 150 spring development projects completed and 51 new waterworks installed in 1955 as against 25 and seven, respectively, in 1954.

[11] Health work unit refers to work load or service performed by personnel or Rural Health Units, each of which is composed of a physician, a nurse, a midwife, and a sanitary inspector, consisting of consultation, examination, treatment, immunization, inspection, health education, deliveries, operations, etc.

[12] In 1955, there were 4,676 school buildings in various stages of completion, including 1,390 pre-fabricated school houses.

[13] During the year, 25,613 *purok* organizations were formed, bringing the total to 70,743, with a total of membership of about five million members.

[14] Ten regional offices were established to meet the need for more efficient labor services in the provinces.

[15] Construction of low-cost housing by the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation was continued in Quezon City. Plans have been prepared to construct low-cost housing unit in other areas like Tondo, Sta. Ana, Tagaytay, Baguio, Tacloban, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao.

[16] Commanders Sol and Villapando were killed; Kamlon surrendered.

[17] Total agricultural production in 1955 increased by 57,400 metric tons over that of 1954, with rice production increasing by less than one percent. Export crop production dropped by 0.2 percent, with copra production increasing by 2.3 percent and sugar production decreasing by 2.6 percent.

[18] The government-owned corporations increased their investment in productive enterprises by P28.4 million in 1955 over that of the previous year.

[19] The consumers price index of the Central Bank (1949 = 100) continued to drop from an average of 104.4 in 1952 to 100.9 in 1953, 99.4 in 1954, and 98.1 for the first nine months of 1955.

Budget Message of President Magsaysay for the Fiscal Year 1957

Budget Message of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines For the Fiscal Year 1957

[Released on February 6, 1956]

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Malacañang

MANILA

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(1), Article VI, of the Constitution, I am submitting herewith the budget of the National Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957.

Our Administration is dedicated to the cardinal mission of progressively advancing the prosperity and well-being of our people. This will be done by maximizing and accelerating the nation's social and economic development while keeping the national defenses strong in order to guarantee our priceless freedoms. We are resolved to press ahead vigorously and confidently with an unrelenting attack on the problems of unemployment, poverty, disease and illiteracy. We shall intensify our constructive efforts to raise the standard of living of the common man and to increase his real personal income by finding ways of making the fullest use of our rich human and natural resources.

The Fiscal Plan for 1957 which I transmit to you herewith has been consciously shaped to the realization of these aspirations which were more fully expressed in my recent State of the Nation message. The accompanying budgetary allocations and fiscal measures give life to the programs and services of Government and represent the primary instruments for achieving these policy objectives. I believe the Fiscal Plan embodied in my recommendations to you, given endorsement by the Congress, will mark another significant step forward in our common endeavor to keep our country secure in an unstable world while affording us an opportunity for continued social growth and the building of a viable economy.

I. A FISCAL PLAN FOR 1957

Fiscal Policy and the Economic Outlook

The Fiscal Plan for 1957 has been realistically oriented to the present and prospective economic situation. The most significant feature of the current economic status has been our success in maintaining monetary stability in the face of public borrowings for development and extensions of liberal credit for private enterprise. I am gratified that officials of the International Monetary Fund in recent consultations cited this condition with favor and commendation. We must maintain this stability as a concomitant of development and at the same time continue to provide the favorable financial and economic climate in which private enterprise can flourish.

Our national income has been increasing steadily year by year but at a rate insufficient to provide full employment for our growing labor force. Price levels have been relatively stable and in fact until November, 1955 reflected a slight recessionary trend in the economy due largely to the contractionary influence of the foreign trade sector. Since that time, however, there has been a perceptible increase in consumer and retail prices.

Our balance of trade has been unfavorable and our international reserve is low. It will not be possible to continue drawing foreign exchange from the reserve for development purchases abroad at the same rate in the future as heretofore. However, by further tightening our import and exchange controls with respect to luxury and non-essential items, as well as by more vigorous promotion of exports, we should be able to improve our foreign trade situation in the period ahead.

We must recognize that the recessionary forces evident during most of 1955 are already fading and may be dissipated in the near future as development spending picks up and as more restrictive import and exchange controls are invoked to minimize the drain on the international reserve. Thus, the economic environment in which future bond issues are floated may be quite different from the favorable climate of last year. This fact must be taken into account as we plan our public borrowing schedule.

In brief, while we have made measurable progress in expanding agricultural and industrial production, much still remains to be done.

I am convinced that we must move ahead and energize those measures and programs which will expand our economy in the most useful and productive lines in the shortest period. Simply to maintain the status quo is to continue our present unsatisfactory standard of living. Such inaction would break faith with the people who have elected us to high public office.

At the same time we must be alert to the potential dangers of over-expansion. While avoiding uncontrolled inflation, we must find the means whereby we can give our economy the dynamic temper which will induce private enterprise to invest greater amounts of capital, expand production, diversify industry and venture into new enterprises which will make the fullest use of our labor supply and natural resources.

Thus, we must meet the challenge of this fiscal-economic dilemma by evolving a formula whereby we can undertake the great effort of national uplift without inducing the inflation which brings social and economic maladjustment.

This calls for a fiscal policy characterized by boldness but tempered with prudence. In my judgment, the financial measures recommended herein meet this dual test of economic desirability and fiscal feasibility.

The Budget in the Context of a Fiscal Plan

As we stand on the threshold of a greatly expanded program of social and economic development, it becomes crucially important that we plan our fiscal resources and their productive allocation with the utmost wisdom and perspective. This is imperative in view of the fact that our resources both from taxation and borrowings are severely circumscribed by our underdeveloped economic potential. We must, therefore, select those projects and activities to be given financial support on the basis of priorities fixed in conformance with rigorous standards of essential need and consistent with a basic pattern of national development. Furthermore, in order to plan wisely, it is necessary to budget the totality of the governmental establishment in all its phases so that we may reach decisions with overall knowledge, make deliberate choices from among feasible alternatives, and gauge the anticipated impact of total public fiscal operations on the economy.

I am accordingly presenting the Annual Budget of the Government in the context of a comprehensive Fiscal Plan for 1957. This is the first time that an all-inclusive financial plan has been formulated and presented to the Congress, portraying total expenditures of the Government by program and purpose along with precise measures for their financing. The Fiscal Plan submitted to you at this time covers not only the usual general budget, but also public works for all purposes, subscriptions to capital stock of corporations, financial investments, loans, and all other proposed obligations of Government whether to be financed from taxation or public borrowings.

This plan has been formulated by the Budget Commission under my direction. The Monetary Board, National Economic Council, and Cabinet were consulted and participated in the development of the plan. Thus, the policy

and administrative decisions reflected therein represent collective thinking in the Executive Branch of the Government.

It is also my intention during the course of the current legislative session to have the Budget Commission formulate, for presentation to you, a longer range fiscal program projecting prospective government expenditures and financial measures from 1957 forward for several additional years. Our plans for 1957 can then be appraised not only in the light of past experience and current needs but also in the perspective of the future.

While it is clearly impossible to fix our intentions with certainty many years in advance, the projection of current trends and requirements should significantly help in planning new financial sources and in avoiding policies and actions which may compound our financial difficulties in the years to come. This projected fiscal program will parallel and reflect our basic plan of national development which is the responsibility of the National Economic Council. Both of these plans, developed cooperatively, will then be adjusted annually in the light of the new situation each year.

Fiscal Plan for 1957

The following table embraces in capsule form the Government's Fiscal Plan for 1957. The Plan has been formulated in full cognizance of our economic, social, and national defense goals, our national income prospects, the balance of payments situation, price and employment trends and other economic factors. The fiscal policy which it embodies is pointed to the economic objectives of high employment, steady price levels and maximum productivity. It is presented to you as the best judgment of the Executive Branch of the Government as to the advisable fiscal course in 1957.

CONSOLIDATED FISCAL PLAN FOR 1957 BY PROGRAM EMPHASIS AND FINANCING SOURCES

Classification and Financing Sources		(Millions of Pesos)		
		1955 Actual Expenditures	1956 Programmed Expenditures	1957 Estimated Expenditures
Expenditure Purposes				
1.	General Government	94.2	105.1	107.2
2.	National Defense	148.2	153.1	136.9
3.	Economic Development			
	Agriculture and Natural Resources	104.7	154.5	215.3
	Commerce and Industry	6.9	39.9	50.2
	Transportation and Communications	134.8	203.6	229.0
	Other Economic Development	84.5	69.5	46.4
	Unallocated Reserve	—	10.0	100.0
4.	Social Development			
	Education	216.7	229.1	244.5
	Health and Medical	49.9	71.9	78.6
	Labor and Welfare	14.7	15.5	18.9
5.	Debt Service	53.2	59.9	106.5
6.	Budgetary Reserve	—	—	14.1
	Total Expenditures	<u>907.8</u>	<u>1,112.1</u>	<u>1,347.6</u>
Financing Measures				
1.	General Fund Receipts	607.3	706.2	731.1

2.	Additional tax revenues	—	—	80.0
3.	Special and Fiduciary Funds	132.7	139.9	158.6
4.	Public Borrowings—R.A. No. 1000	63.9	139.7	252.3
5.	Public Borrowing's—R.A. No. 245	60.0	44.0	—
6.	Other Public Borrowings	<u>61.1</u>	<u>73.0</u>	<u>123.0</u>
	Total Receipts—All Funds	<u>925.0</u>	<u>1,102.8</u>	<u>1,345.0</u>

NOTE:

1.	Does not include:	(a)	Transactions of government financial institutions.
		(b)	Operating income and expense of corporations.
		(c)	Loans to government corporations from commercial banks or government financial institutions.
2.	Differences between total receipts and expenditures in a given year are due to use of carry-over balances.		

On the expenditure side, the Fiscal Plan provides the most advantageous allocation of resources among the major programs of Government. Benefits have been carefully appraised in relation to cost and overall program balance achieved on the basis of priority considerations discussed subsequently.

On the financing side, the plan represents a judicious balance between taxation and public borrowings. The amount of revenues which can be raised by taxation is limited by the relatively low income of most of our population and by the inadvisability of reducing already low consumption standards. On the other hand, borrowings are limited by considerations of overexpanding the money supply and exceeding the amount which can be absorbed annually by the economy.

The most critical consideration in formulating this plan has been the factor of maximum levels of government expenditures. We are in a situation which demands that the Government accumulate the largest amount of capital the national economy is capable of providing. This is necessary in order that the maximum amount, in excess of funds required for normal public functions, can be plowed back into the economy in the form of productive investment.

We believe the aggregate of P1,347.6 million represents both the advisable and feasible levels of government expenditure in 1957, based on the reasonable proportion of the gross national product which can be diverted to governmental purposes. Taking into account the estimated cost of provincial and local governments in 1957, amounting to some P210 million, the total estimated amount to be diverted from the gross national product for the entire government sector is P1,557.6 million. This overall sum represents approximately 17% of the anticipated gross national product for 1957 (estimated at P9,400 million). Considering the disproportionate burden that necessarily falls on Government in the capital accretion process for development, this amount, while maximal in our present situation, is not excessive.

Many other nations in an economic status similar to the Philippines have found it both desirable and feasible to equal or even exceed this proportion of gross national product for governmental purposes. With careful planning and with frequent periodic stocktaking, I believe we can plan to expend up to the overall magnitude proposed.

Economic objectives of the Fiscal Plan

The formulation of the Fiscal Plan for 1957 has been governed by three dominant considerations:

a. To maximize the amounts which can be made available for the Government's economic development program.

b. To maintain monetary stability by placing a limit on and carefully scheduling all public borrowings; and by continuing the policy of a flexible managed currency.

c. To give the economy a moderate expansionary character while keeping new injections into the money flow under effective control by advance planning and by releasing such amounts only as the economy can absorb without exerting undue inflationary pressures.

Of the aggregate P1,347.6 million of proposed expenditures in the 1957 Fiscal Plan, P640.9 million are allocated for economic development purposes covering both current and capital expenditures. I am particularly gratified to report that the Plan envisages an increase of P163.4 million in 1957 funds available for economic development over those planned for 1956.

Of the total P1,347.6 million embraced in the Fiscal Plan, P821.6 million is allocated to current operating expenses and P526.0 million to capital expenditure. The capital expenditure figure will enable the Government to make a contribution to net capital formation estimated at P347 million. This, together with net capital investment from the private sector, will mean a significant yearly addition to the nation's productive capacity.

These outlays should have a striking impact in accelerating the pace of our national progress. With infusions of this magnitude sparking the economy, I believe we can look forward to the time when the private sector will begin confidently to generate its own forward propulsion and government financing can decline correspondingly.

Fulfillment of the Fiscal Plan and realization of the above additional amounts for development are, however, dependent on obtaining additional revenues of P80 million sufficient to balance the General Fund. To the extent revenues are not adequate to cover anticipated General Fund expenditures, with consequent recourse to R. A. No. 245 financing, to that same extent public borrowings for economic development purposes must be reduced.

The 1957 Plan contemplates an estimated impact on the money supply of P231.2 million resulting from the Government's fiscal transactions, after making appropriate deductions for withdrawals from the money flow due to public debt payments, foreign exchange costs, and other deflationary or non-inflationary factors. A summary of the effect of proposed fiscal transactions on the money supply follows:

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON MONEY SUPPLY RESULTING FROM GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

	Actual Expenditures 1955	Estimated Expenditures 1956	Prospective Expenditures 1957
Treasury Notes, R. A. No. 245	P60,000,000	P44,000,000	
R. A. No. 1000 Borrowings	61,948,000	139,719,000	P252,300,000
Other Public Bond Issues	<u>61,093,000</u>	<u>73,000,000</u>	<u>123,000,000</u>
Total	P183,041,000	P256,719,000	P375,300,000

DEDUCT:

for deflationary effect:

Principal on public debt	23,400,000 (a)	23,400,000 (a)
Foreign exchange costs for government purposes	40,000,000 (b)	48,000,000 (b)

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON MONEY SUPPLY RESULTING FROM GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS

	Actual Expenditures 1955	Estimated Expenditures 1956	Prospective Expenditures 1957
Budgetary Reserve			14,123,000
<i>for non-inflationary effect:</i>			
PNB-payment of government debts	46,000,000		
Unredeemed Land Certificates			15,000,000
Net effect on money supply	<u>P73,641,000</u>	<u>P185,319,000</u>	<u>P231,157,000</u>

NOTE: Figures are based on estimated expenditures—not authorizations or bonds issued.

(a) Does not include Back Pay obligations.

(b) Estimates only.

While the money supply (P1.278.6 million in November, 1955) has been relatively stable for some time, it has recently been expanding as development bonds have been issued. This is favorable in terms of a healthy economy provided the increase does not exceed the corresponding growth of our productive facilities.

It is expected that the economy can absorb the infusion planned for 1957 although some price rise may well be caused by the injection of this additional amount into the income stream. An increase in general price levels on domestic items of 4 or 5% in any one year can, we believe, be absorbed without economic dislocation and may in fact act as a stimulant to economic progress. However, if domestic price increases threaten to exceed these amounts, our borrowing program must then be inevitably curtailed. Furthermore, regardless of any other consideration, I should like to give public assurance at this point that we shall continue to peg the price of our basic staple, rice, at a stable level and will take necessary steps to see that consumer prices generally are not unduly increased from current levels.

Based on the above considerations, P231.2 million appears to be the maximum safe amount for injection into the money supply in 1957.

II. FISCAL POLICIES FOR 1957

Balancing the General Fund

The Fiscal Plan envisages the balancing of the regular budget. General Fund expenditures have been rising steadily and inescapably over the last decade to provide essential public services for a rapidly growing population and to step-up the level of our social and economic development. In spite of continuing efforts to realize a higher proportion of the potential tax base, actual revenue collections have not kept pace with increasing expenditures. This has led to substantial General Fund deficits in most of the years since liberation.

The unbalanced condition of the General Fund is reflected in the fact that as of December 31, 1953 the accumulated deficit in this fund was P181.5 million. There should be added to this deficit P280.5 million representing unbooked and unpaid obligations and P55 million of advances from and overdrafts against other funds. This is not a proper basis on which the Government should conduct its financial affairs.

In addition to these deferred payments of obligations, which accrued under previous Administrations, the Government has had to resort to short term borrowings under R. A. No. 245 or to the provision of overdraft lines by

the Central Bank in order to maintain a solvent cash position. By the end of the current fiscal year these additional obligations, not covered by revenues, will have amounted to approximately P119 million.

It is not sound fiscal practice to finance current operations and the normal capital expenditures of Government by public borrowings or deferred payment of legitimate obligations. I am gratified to state here that during the period of our Administration from January 1, 1954 to date, the current operating expenses and the normal capital expenditures of the Government have been financed exclusively by tax revenues. Short term borrowings have been resorted to only for the financing of extraordinary capital expenditures. The policy of the Administration is, therefore to comply scrupulously with both the spirit and intent of Section 13 of R. A. No. 992. (The Revised Budget Act.)

It is accordingly our objective to balance the General Fund by substantially augmenting revenues received from taxation, placing initial emphasis, as we have done during the last two years, on intensified collections. Our 1957 program will be to increase our revenue yields so that we may be assured that general government expenditures and anticipated revenues will be in balance. This will permit us to reserve the use of national credit for income creating development projects of high priority which directly increase the productive capacity of the country.

In order that we may make a small beginning in the direction of absorbing the large volume of deferred obligations in the General Fund, we have deliberately set aside P14.1 million in the form of a budgetary reserve. Though this does not significantly alter the problem of the large backlog of obligations, it will permit a more adequate working cash base and will minimize the present tenuous basis upon which the Government conducts financial transactions during seasonal fluctuations in revenue receipts.

Revisions in Tax Structure

As the first step toward balancing the General Fund budget for Fiscal Year 1957, I propose to reinvigorate our revenue collection services and to take necessary steps to assure that existing taxes are collected vigorously and equitably. I am sure that by improving the efficiency of the Government's tax collection machinery we can raise actual receipts considerably above the estimated 60% of potential at the present time.

The following table reflects the trends in tax collections under the existing tax structure and our realistic estimate of what can be accomplished in 1957.

ESTIMATED INCOME UNDER PRESENT TAX STRUCTURE

GENERAL FUND

(Millions of Pesos)

	1955	
Import Duties and Taxes	P148.0	P257.1
New Tariff rates—January 1, 1956		11.9
Foreign Exchange Tax	111.8	50.0
Excise Taxes	125.2	138.6
Income Tax	128.6	142.1
License, Business and Occupation Tax	68.3	77.9
Other Taxation	22.5	25.2
Other Income*	<u>58.7</u>	<u>54.6</u>
	P663.1	P757.4
Less: Apportionment to Local Governments	<u>(55.8)</u>	<u>(51.2)</u>
Total Income	<u>P607.3</u>	<u>P706.2</u>

* Excludes Treasury Note receipts for 1955 and 1956.

The significant factor in the 1956 and 1957 revenue estimate is the substantial increase represented by the new import duties and tariff rates. In 1955, P259.8 million were received from import levies and the exchange tax. Our income from these levies together with the new duties and tariffs which replace the exchange tax (under the Laurel-Langley Agreement) will rise to P319.0 million and P340.3 million, respectively, in 1956 and 1957.

In Fiscal Year 1957, even with intensified tax collection, our estimated revenues of P731.1 million will still be deficient by P80 million to meet General Fund needs of P811.1 million including the required reserve. Additional revenues must, therefore, be realized in order to meet our goal of a balanced general budget.

In formulating tax proposals to meet this deficiency, I have been guided by the following principles:

1. To avoid increasing the tax burden of the average taxpayer.
2. To assess sectors of the economy not now bearing their proportionate share of the costs of Government.
3. To place emphasis on progressive rather than regressive factors in the tax system, with ability to pay as the principal criterion.
4. To avoid impairing appropriate business incentives.
5. To use the tax structure as a legitimate instrument for achieving social and economic justice in the distribution of the fruits of our national economy.

In line with the above principles the Tax Advisory Board, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Finance, has made a careful study of the existing tax structure and the possibilities of augmenting revenues through tax revision. The Board has recommended, and I have approved for submission to the Congress, the following tax revision proposals:

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT REVENUES
AND THE ESTIMATED YIELDS THEREFROM**

Sources	Estimated Increase
1. Individual Income Tax (extend effectivity of rates under R. A. No. 1094, eliminate exemption granted the social clubs and increase tax on capital gains, amending secs. 21, 27 (h) and 34(b) of the National Internal Revenue Code for this purpose)	P7,800,000
2. Estate, inheritance and gift tax (Amend Section 85 of the National Internal Revenue Code by increasing the existing rates thereon)	4,000,000
3. Specific tax on illegally possessed imported articles and cigarettes, sales tax on toilet preparations, and gasoline tax (Amend Sections 125, 127, 137, and 142 of the National Internal Revenue Code)	17,900,000
4. Privilege tax, sales and compensating tax (Amend Sections 182, 184-186, and 190-191 of the National Internal Revenue Code, by increasing; rates on certain articles)	12 800,000
5. Amusement tax (Amend Section 260 of the National Internal Revenue Code by providing a flat rate of 20 per cent of gross receipts of all amusement places)	4,000,000
6. Residence Tax (Amend Sections 1, 2, and 4 of C. A. No. 465 by increasing present rates)	1,500.00
7. Tax Amnesty Law (grant partial amnesty on past tax delinquencies)	25,000,000
8. Legislation to improve revenue administration including enforcement and collection procedures and National Tax Census	<u>7,000,000</u>
Total	<u>P80,000,000</u>

I invite your special consideration to the recommendations of the Tax Advisory Board concerning the Tax Amnesty Law and the establishment of a National Tax Census. Under existing law the accrued fines and penalties imposed on delinquent taxpayers are often so considerable as to discourage the settlement of past tax obligations. As an incentive, therefore, to induce such taxpayers to reveal or declare their untaxed earnings or incomes, it is believed reasonable to grant a partial tax amnesty. Under this and related proposals, it is anticipated that the Government will be able to raise an additional income of about P25 million.

With respect to the proposal for a National Tax Census, it has been found that there is an inadequate consolidated source of information available regarding the business, occupations, assets or sources of income of taxpayers. A comprehensive tax census would go a long way towards enhancing tax collections by minimizing tax evasion and revenue leakage. It would also promote efficiency and dispatch in tax investigations and would furthermore provide the vital statistics on which to base sound fiscal and economic policies.

Other significant proposals of the Tax Advisory Board involve legislation making permanent various tax laws due to expire in the near future and important measures designed to improve revenue administration and collection procedures.

I urge the enactment of the above tax program by the Congress because I am convinced that additional revenues are unavoidable to preserve confidence in the integrity of government finances and to distribute more evenly the costs of our nation-building program. Equally important is the necessity of counter-balancing our borrowing policy by reducing that excessive purchasing power which dissipates our resources in luxury consumption, particularly of imported items, in real estate speculation and in other unproductive investment.

It is within the capacity of the economy to support these additional revenues. Even with the proposed increases only about 10 per cent of the national income will be diverted to the Government by taxation. The experience of other countries engaged in major development efforts indicates that levels of taxation taking up to 15 per cent or more of national income can safely be achieved without impairing economic stability.

I believe we must keep our tax policy under continuous review, adapting it periodically, both to meet the needs of an expanding economy and to assure more equitable assessment. As a foundation for constructing a more dynamic and positive tax program, we must have sustained studies and investigations of such subjects as tax incidence, direct or indirect taxes, relative yields, tax incentives for business, and collection costs. To this end, I am recommending the creation of a Division of Tax Research in the Department of Finance to conduct, on a continuing basis, technical studies of tax operations and the need for adjustments in the tax structure. This new Division will service not only the Executive Branch but its research facilities will be available to the Congress as well in its study of tax measures.

We cannot, as a nation, expect to pursue national development in the magnitude contemplated without undertaking as a minimum to carry the burden of normal government expenditures through taxation. Unless positive action is taken to improve our financial status the situation is such as not only to jeopardize our budgetary position but to impede our development progress as well. I accordingly urge the enactment of the appended tax legislation.

Policy on Borrowing for Economic Development

With these positive tax measures directed to stabilizing our finances for current operations, I believe we will have improved our position for attracting the domestic capital as well as the foreign investment and aid which we urgently require. At the same time, we will be in a better position to move ahead more confidently in using our own national credit resources, for development.

In order to implement our national program and achieve measurable economic gains in a relatively short time, I propose to continue the policy of resorting to long-term borrowings for capital projects up to the maximum of economic feasibility consistent with the maintenance of monetary stability. The use of our national credit represents a proper source of capital accumulation at this time when we are endeavoring to step-up the rates of our economic growth. I am confident that it is in the long-range interest of our national progress to undertake this method of financing economic development, provided that the individual projects so financed are sound from an economic and

business point of view, are efficiently managed, and represent an integral part of a broad and well-conceived national development plan.

To this end I propose public borrowings of P252.3 million under R. A. No. 1000 or new borrowing authority to finance economic development in 1957. Under the proposed plan P152.3 million of these R. A. No. 1000 borrowings are earmarked for projects considered to be of high priority in terms of relative contribution to economic progress within the framework of Congressional authorizations which now amount to P991 million of the one billion provided by the Act.

In view of the fact that there are other essential requirements of equal or perhaps even higher priority which cannot now be planned definitively, I have also included an unallocated amount of P100 million of bond funds for capital development. It is my hope and intention to add this amount, or the maximum proportion thereof, to development resources. Release of the full amount, however, will be contingent on whether the monetary position is stable at the time of program implementation. The total amount of bond funds including the unallocated sum must, therefore, remain flexible but cannot in any case exceed the maximum limit proposed herein.

In connection with the use of these public borrowings I am directing the National Economic Council to undertake a comprehensive reconsideration of the entire range of development programs and projects. All existing R. A. No. 1000 authorizations together with new ideas, programs or projects should be re-appraised and considered in the light of their urgency and contribution to national development. Based on this review, I may wish to recommend new measures to the Congress requesting authorization for other programs more directly geared to increase agricultural and industrial productivity.

In addition to the above public borrowings I have authorized the scheduling in 1957 of P123.0 million of bond issues through the Central Bank for the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, National Power Corporation, National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration, and National Development Company for overseas shipping, under the terms of their own charters or authorizations, as well as the issuance of P20 million of Negotiable Land Certificates under the Land Tenure Act. While these agencies could undoubtedly use additional capital funds profitably, I have found it necessary to limit and schedule their borrowings since these transactions as well affect the money supply situation.

Following is a summary of expenditures planned from the proceeds of bond sales as discussed above.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FROM BOND FUNDS

	Actual Expenditures 1955	
<i>R. A. No. 1000 Borrowings</i>		
Public Works	P12,648,420	P77,169,000
PNB	46,000,000	20,000,000
CEPOC		15,000,000
NPC	1,000,000	1,050,000
MRR	300,000	
Abaca Corporation		2,000,000
PHILCOA		2,000,000
NASSCO		2,000,000
PHHC	2,000,000	1,500,000
Public Lands Survey		
Home Financing Fund		2,000,000

NARRA		2,000,000
Land Tenure Act		5,000,000
Cadastral Survey Fund		
Total R. A. No. 1000	<u>P61,948,420</u>	<u>P129,719,000</u>
<i>Unallocated Bond Funds</i>		<u>10,000,000</u>
<i>Other Public Bond Issues</i>		
RFC	P16,293,000	P10,000,000
NPC	18,400,000	28,000,000
NAWASA	2,000,000	5,000,000
ACCFA*	24,400,000	25,000,000
Overseas Shipping Loans		5,000,000
Negotiable Land Certificates		
Total other	<u>P61,093,000</u>	<u>P73,000,000</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>P123,041,420</u>	<u>P212,719,000</u>

* Additional net average loans outstanding.

Projects financed by loan funds should preponderantly be such as are sufficiently income-creating to be self-liquidating with a high benefit-cost ratio and with some prospects for early productive accomplishment. This principle has been followed in scheduling those projects included in the Fiscal Plan for 1957. In a few instances, however, we have found it desirable, as well as necessary, to finance limited amounts of non-revenue producing projects by borrowings to agricultural or industrial productivity or are of transcendent social importance. Examples of such are feeder roads, artesian wells, and pre-fabricated school buildings.

In order to keep our economic and monetary situation under sharp and constant surveillance and to avoid a too rapid rate of expansion, I have directed the National Economic Council to screen and schedule current projects requiring bond funds most carefully. Furthermore, I have directed the Budget Commission to subject each request to a close fiscal and administrative examination. Finally, I have directed the Monetary Board to continue its review of specific borrowing measures to assure that such measures will not impair monetary stability under conditions prevailing at the time of issuance. This procedure will also offer the Board an opportunity to consider other financing alternatives including the possibilities of foreign loans and grants.

General Program Emphasis

Economic improvement and stability provide the environment within which human dignity and political freedom can grow. It is, therefore, appropriate that we place our primary emphasis on this aspect of our national life during the coming intensive period of national development.

The following table reflects the fact that 47.6% of the total funds in the Fiscal Plan are allocated to economic development for the purpose of stimulating our agricultural and industrial production.

RELATIVE PROGRAM EMPHASIS IN 1957 FISCAL PLAN

General Government	P107.2
National Defense	136.9
Economic Development	640.9
Social Development	342.0

Debt Service	106.5
Budgetary Reserve	<u>14.1</u>
	<u>P1,347.6</u>

The Government's policy of progressively stepping up our economic gains is strikingly illustrated by the following statement of comparative amounts devoted to this purpose since the advent of our Administration:

COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

(Millions of Pesos)

1952
1953
1954
1955
1956 (Estimated)
1957 (Proposed)

The provision of sums of this magnitude will prove to be a major force in achieving the goals which I laid down in my State of the Nation message by increasing employment opportunities, expanding and diversifying production, and minimizing our dependence on imports.

While holding present gains and maintaining existing standards in the social sector, we must be prepared to make some temporary sacrifice in terms of our aspirations for an accelerated pace and higher level of social development. Our prospects for achieving this level will be much brighter over a period of time by concentrating now on raising our economic output. This in turn will raise our national income sufficiently to permit a higher standard of education, health, and social welfare. For the time being, therefore, essential as they are, our social development services must be within the normal resources of Government contained in the General Fund and financed from tax revenues.

Nevertheless, in spite of the dictates of this policy, our Administration has been able to allot moderate increases for social development as reflected in the following:

COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS DIRECTED TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(Millions of Pesos)

Fiscal Year

1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957

The aggregate public debt of the Philippines as of December 31, 1955 amounted to P1,332.8 million (net obligations), of which some P45.8 million is debt of provincial and local governments. This represents an increase of P240.6 million compared to 1954.

In fiscal year 1957 we plan to issue some P375 million of new bonds or certificates of indebtedness. This will be offset by payments on debt principal amounting to P76.6 million (including back pay obligations) in the same period.

While the public debt is only about 17% of national income at the present time, this will rise under public bond issues pursuant to R. A. No. 1000 and other legislative authorizations. The increase in debt will require a corresponding and substantial increase in debt payments to be taken from General Fund revenues. For the fiscal year 1957 an amount of P106.5 million has been provided in the regular budget for amortization and interest payments with respect to the public debt and its expected increase through June, 1956. This contrasts with the sums of P53.2 million and P59.9 million for 1955 and 1956, respectively.

While the amortization and interest payments on the international part of the debt have been met, a large portion of domestic borrowings for past years has neither sinking fund resources nor plans for retirement. Many of those obligations mature within the next three to five years. There is no prospect of accumulating the necessary funds for their retirement in that period other than by new borrowings. Most of these debts must, therefore, be refunded or the Government must begin now to rationalize these debts and start setting aside funds for their ultimate maturity.

Accordingly, I favor a policy of orderly but steady debt amortization recognizing that it will be necessary to extend payment schedules in many cases over longer periods than originally contemplated. To implement this policy the Budget not only includes the customary amounts for regular debt amortization but also includes an item of P5 million as a token beginning toward amortizing the P200 million Rehabilitation and Development Bonds which are due starting in 1959. Likewise, the Budget provides the sum of P12 million as the first installment looking toward the repayment of Treasury Bills held by the Central Bank originally issued as budgetary loans.

Finally I have adopted the policy of placing in the Budget the amounts which are duly scheduled for the amortization of R. A. No. 1000 bonds currently being issued. We shall, of course, hope and expect that the corporations and agencies to which these sums are allocated will be able to assume their full share of this financial burden from the proceeds of the related income-producing projects. In the meantime, however, we shall keep our payments on schedule.

There is need in the Department of Finance to establish a Division of Public Debt Management in order to provide a center for planning and managing the public debt. I propose to submit for your consideration in the near future a Reorganization Plan to this end. Such a new Division, working in collaboration with the Treasury, should be concerned with the formulation of plans and policies governing issues of and transactions in public securities, planning and supervising sinking fund investments, allocating and following up charges for debt service and generally formulating plans for debt amortization and seeing that they are carried out.

A final aspect of the debt which merits attention is the fact that government corporations are in arrears on interest payments, the result being an unwarranted drain on General Fund resources to pay for these annual obligations. The corporations owe some P15 million with reference to Rehabilitation and Development Bonds and approximately P16.3 million with respect to back pay obligations for pre-war employees. Vigorous steps will be taken to collect these amounts wherever the financial status of the corporations concerned will permit.

Policy Concerning Public Corporations

I am gratified by the improved financial condition of our public corporations as evidenced by the fact that they practically all report profitable operations for the year ending June 30, 1955. After so many years of operating deficits and incommensurate returns on the Governments investment, this is indeed a welcome change

In spite of any shortcomings, many of the corporations are conducting business and industrial operations which are of vital importance to our productive effort. They must be continued whether under government or private auspices. It is my hope that private enterprise will demonstrate a willingness to take over many of these business- and industrial-type government corporations.

Accordingly, I should like to reaffirm the policy of the Administration in this regard: that the Government will engage in business and industrial activity only in those fields which are vital to the economy but which temporarily at least are not attractive to private initiative. At any time when private enterprise expresses a willingness to purchase or lease on reasonable terms any of our public corporations under conditions which will guarantee continuing levels of service or production, the Government will relinquish its holdings with alacrity.

Pending sale or lease to private groups and during the period of government operation, we must gain maximum production from these facilities and take steps to make their ultimate take-over more attractive to private groups. To this end it will be my policy to strengthen and improve their management and to place them on a sounder financial basis.

The Fiscal Plan for 1957 provides additional operating capital and other funds, principally from public borrowings, for certain selected corporations in order to permit them to perform more adequately their assigned responsibilities. In granting these funds, however, these corporations are expected to assume their own debt service charges fully and to place themselves on a basis where they can carry their own financial weight.

III. SIGNIFICANT FEATURES OF 1957 PROGRAM

Priorities Governing Budget Allowances

Consonant with the national development objectives outlined in my State of the Nation message, primary emphasis in formulating the Fiscal Plan and the related Budget has been given those economic programs and services which directly advance industrial and agricultural productivity. Accordingly the following specific activities were given priority in allocating 1957 resources:

1. Undertakings which significantly contribute to or facilitate the operation of dollar-earning or dollar-saving industry.
2. Rural development programs which stimulate self-help in achieving higher living standards and greater farm production.
3. Programs directed to gaining self-sufficiency in the production of basic foodstuffs.
4. Activities which expedite the process of land distribution among the landless.
5. Facilities and services which are of immediate importance as a foundation to the productive process including power, irrigation and flood control, feeder roads, and water transport.

With respect to capital expenditures priority is granted in the Budget to projects which are oriented to economic objectives, which are definitely income producing and which give promise of bringing economic returns within a relatively short period.

As already indicated, social development programs are generally levelled off in 1957 though it is possible to make modest increases for some programs. Preferential budget treatment in the 1957 Budget is given only such social investment projects as are directly contributory to economic productivity, particularly under the rural development program, or which are imperative to maintain present education, health, sanitation, and other social standards. Artesian wells, pre-fabricated school buildings, water works, public housing, and rural health services are considered most essential in this category.

In the light of our current financial situation, we have no alternative but to adopt a stringent budgetary policy for normal expenditures financed from the General Fund. Thus no increases are provided in the 1957 Budget for the conduct of normal government operations except:

(a) to satisfy mandatory commitments of the Government

(b) to provide essential services for increased population growth

(c) to continue or extend services previously authorized the non-performance of which would cause demonstrable social or economic loss

Many highly meritorious proposals were disallowed or deferred during budget review simply because our resources will not be sufficient to finance higher levels next year. The ultimate criterion in determining budgetary allowances has been whether the anticipated benefits adequately justify the economic burden they impose either by taxation or borrowings.

Agriculture

Ours is essentially an agricultural country. It follows that we should devote a large part of our financial resources to this fundamental economic base.

In doing so, our goal is to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. We must solve the recurring problem of our rich agricultural country having to import rice and other basic foods. The funds provided in the 1957 Budget will permit an intensification of our campaign to raise the yield of these basic crops.

Budgetary emphasis on the agriculture and natural resources sector is reflected in the fact that the total expected outlay from all sources in the Fiscal Plan for this purpose will increase from P154.5 million in 1956 to P215.3 million in 1957. The estimated obligations of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources itself will increase from P35.6 million in 1956 to P45.5 million in 1957. This will permit the Department to continue its specialized services to farmers, as a part of the rural development program, in an effort to give major impetus to increased productive efficiency. All facets of the Department's program will be maintained at higher work goals—dissemination of agricultural information; improvement of agricultural crops; promotion and development of animal industry; forest protection and management; development of mineral resources; fishery management and promotion; soil conservation; and agricultural extension services.

Also worthy of note is the fact that funds from all sources for the extension and improvement of major irrigation facilities are increased from P26.6 million in 1956 to P30.9 million in 1957. This program will likewise have an important effect in increasing farm production.

Rural Development

Our Administration has accepted as a solemn obligation the improvement of the economic lot, the raising of the social standards and the strengthening of the capacity for self-government of our rural inhabitants.

The basic purpose of the Government's rural development program is to accelerate the development of a self-reliant, alert citizenry fully capable of increasing its living standards with a minimum of National Government assistance. In this cooperative process all agencies of Government must share. Our methods will be those of friendly guidance and our assistance will be offered in the spirit of helpfulness.

One of the cornerstones of our policy of raising farm production as well as strengthening the sense of economic security of our rural citizens is the land reform program. The implementation of the Land Tenure Reform Act will be given greatly increased impetus in 1957 as an incentive to productivity and contentment. For this purpose P5 million is scheduled from R. A. No. 1000 funds and P20 million of Negotiable Land Certificates will be issued. These amounts will permit us to take major strides forward in our program of making land available to the landless.

Another important aspect of land reform concerns the work performed by the National Resettlement and Rehabilitation Administration. For this agency there is included an additional appropriation of P8 million, as well as

P2 million from bond funds in 1957. These funds will support NARRA's program of distributing public farm lands to landless tenants and workers and encouraging emigration to sparsely populated regions.

Improvement of the lot of our rural population will also be greatly enhanced by the program of the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration. Since this activity is so vital to increase farm production and rural prosperity I have authorized P30 million of loans as an additional lending and financing base for this agency in 1957. In addition P10 million is included in the General Fund for this program. The organization and strengthening of cooperatives and the extension of liberal credit on easy terms will be greatly advanced by these substantial sums.

In order to meet the ever increasing demand for lands for settlement purposes, continued emphasis will be given to the survey and subdivision of both public and private lands. In addition to increased General Fund allocations, the 1957 estimate of the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources includes P3,858,700 for public land surveys and P2,500,000 for cadastral surveys from bond funds in 1957. With these sums the Department, through the Bureau of Lands, expects to survey 712,140 hectares of public lands, undertake 204,320 hectares of cadastral surveys, issue 35,000 patents and process 265,390 new applications leading to the issuance of patents. The Bureau of Forestry is also being allotted P1.3 million for land classification in order to make agricultural lands of the public domain available for survey and subdivision by the Bureau of Lands. It expects to classify 1,200,000 hectares in 1957.

The Bureau of Agricultural Extension will intensify its work in the rural areas. The sum of P5.7 million is provided in 1957 for this program of direct services to farmers. The dissemination of agricultural information, promotion of improved farming and agricultural practices, demonstration of useful homemaking techniques and food utilization, and promotion of 4-H Clubs and other civic organizations will be strengthened with these resources.

The construction of essential feeder and farm-to-market roads will be expanded in 1957. The amount of P26.9 million is recommended for next year in contrast to P21.3 million provided this year. These much needed facilities for marketing agricultural and forest products will induce farmers to produce more and insure a more equitable margin of profit to the people in our remote areas.

One of the more important programs of rural development is the extension of irrigation facilities through the installation of pump systems to provide communities of small farmers with a continuous water supply during the dry season. The success of this program will bring about increased yields of the regular seasonal crops, particularly rice and corn, and will also make possible the planting of a second crop during the dry season. At the beginning of fiscal year 1956, 82 such irrigation pump systems were in operation and by the end of the year this will have increased to 174 units. In fiscal year 1957 the goal is 245 units.

The rural health program established by R. A. No. 1082 has already made great progress in extending more medical and dental services to rural areas. During the fiscal year 1955 about 1,000 municipalities were provided with rural health units. During the current fiscal year this number will be increased to 1,100 fully functioning units. Next year our plans are to increase this to 1,200. The 1957 Budget provides P14.4 million for such purpose.

In addition to the rural health units and dental services, more hospital clinics, puericulture centers and mobile health clinics have been established or organized to enable people in the barrios to take advantage of the benefits of modern medical and sanitary facilities. This work will also be accelerated in 1957.

Since water-borne diseases stand near the top as causes of illness and death, one of our major goals in community improvement is to provide a potable water supply in every barrio of the Philippines. To this end the 1957 Budget provides P960,000 from the General Fund and P3 million from R. A. No. 1000 borrowings for this purpose. These sums will finance the installation of 1,830 artesian wells in 1957 by the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority, involving an increase of 380 over those facilities provided in the current year.

With all these and other programs of assistance being offered our rural population, I believe we can confidently look forward to the time when through the cooperative efforts of Government, community and individuals, they can enjoy a richer and happier life and acquire the dignity and aspirations of free, prosperous and secure men.

Commercial and Industrial Development

The nation's industrial development must be geared to expanding our dollar-earning and dollar-saving capacity. Within this standard, industries which afford maximum employment of manpower and utilize higher proportions of local raw materials will continue to be given priority. We must produce more of our essential needs to attain a larger measure of self-sufficiency. At the same time we must redouble efforts for the diversification and expansion of our world trade by producing more export crops and by improving their quality while reducing production costs. Funds provided in the 1957 Fiscal Plan will mark substantial progress toward these goals.

Abundant power is indispensable to rapid agricultural and industrial development. I have accordingly allocated a total of P29 million this year and P52 million in 1957 to the National Power Corporation. These bond funds will hasten completion of the Ambuklao and Maria Cristina Unit No. 2 hydroelectric projects and will enable the initiation of several new projects, including those of Marikina and Ilog. These major power facilities will extend the benefits of electrification to more rural areas, and increase production of cheaper fertilizer.

Under R. A. No. 1341, P20 million has been authorized from bond funds to enable the Cebu Portland Cement Company to repay its indebtedness of P15 million to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation this year. The balance of P5 million is intended for development of our coal resources.

There has been earmarked for the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation under R. A. No. 1396 the sum of P20 million next year from R. A. No. 1000 funds to establish a pig iron smelting plant and to improve existing steel mills.

Release of P2 million this year and P2.1 million in 1957 to the newly organized Abaca Corporation of the Philippines will enable it to work for the rehabilitation of the abaca industry. These funds will stimulate increased production and improve the quality of abaca fiber.

Allocations of P2 million this year and P3 million in 1957 are provided for the Philippine Coconut Administration to embark on an industrialization and improvement program for the coconut industry.

The Rehabilitation Finance Corporation will be authorized to issue P16 million of bonds to increase its loan base in 1957. This will be used for loans to priority agricultural and industrial enterprises.

The National Marketing Corporation is granted P10 million from the General Fund in 1957 for the purpose of stabilizing prices of prime commodities. This agency is one of our principal instruments in assuring an adequate supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices and in discouraging black market operations.

In the field of trade, a new ray of hope was offered our small and hitherto neglected Filipino retailers by the passage of R. A. No. 1292. During the current fiscal year, we have undertaken a program of assisting Filipino retailers by establishing a guarantee loan fund amounting to P20 million. We have already released P5 million of this fund, and in the next fiscal year an equal amount is included in the General Fund Budget.

Transportation

Our existing transportation facilities are not fully adequate or geared to meet the needs of our expanding economy. We must, therefore, continue to encourage the development of safe, cheap and dependable means of transportation.

A total of P92.8 million is provided in 1957 for the construction or improvement of main highways and feeder roads from General, Special and Bond funds. This will finance the building of 4,540 kilometers of new or improved roads, of which 3,023 kilometers are main highways and 1,517 kilometers are feeder roads.

Extension of the Manila Railroad line to the Cagayan Valley with bond funds amounting to P3.8 million next year will make this fertile region more attractive to settlers and investors and speed up its economic growth.

Exportation of our products is greatly handicapped by the lack of Philippine bottoms as well as the high cost of foreign shipping. To give impetus to the development of our own merchant marine, the National Development Company will be provided with P5 million this year and P10 million next year under the provisions of R. A. No. 1407.

The increasing volume of business carried by both inter-island and international shipping has made it necessary that we maintain our seaports at high efficiency. For 1957 it is estimated that 250 ports and harbors, both national and municipal, will be improved or reconstructed with an outlay of P5.2 million to be charged against the Port Works Special Fund, P1.8 million from the General Fund and P3 million from bond funds.

Education

An enlightened citizenry makes a strong democracy. Our people must not only be literate but must understand their stake in national progress and be equipped to play their full productive role. Education is the key to giving them this insight and affording them the opportunity of acquiring the necessary skills.

The 1957 Budget provides a total of P244.5 million from all sources for educational purposes. This represents an increase of P15.4 million over sums provided in 1956 and will bring us closer to our goal of eradicating illiteracy and revitalizing education in the Philippines. As heretofore, education will receive the largest share of General Fund resources.

Annual increases for education are not only desirable but unavoidable because of the normal increase in school population. For fiscal year 1957, an estimated 3,000 additional elementary classes will be opened, for which an additional appropriation of P6,880,800 is included in the Budget.

As a direct contribution to economic progress, the 1957 educational program lays greater emphasis on the establishment of vocational, agricultural and trade schools so as to provide the country with an augmented supply of skilled agricultural and industrial workers.

There has been unprecedented activity by the Government in constructing school buildings to accommodate the increased enrollment and to replace buildings which were damaged or totally destroyed. Construction of school buildings has been accelerated by the use of pre-fabricated facilities. The 1957 Budget provides additional funds to construct an additional 1,800 of these buildings.

Private educational institutions are helping the Government provide education to its citizens. Their efforts are especially important in the fields of high school education, university, and professional training. To maintain a high standard of instruction, government supervision of private schools will be continued.

As moulders of the character of our youth, public school teachers help shape the destiny of our people. In recognition of their vital role the Administration provided for the adjustment of their salaries. In June, 1955 this year, Republic Act No. 1230 appropriated P17,000,000 for this purpose. A like sum is included in the 1957 Budget.

Health and Medical Services

The continuing improvement of public health and sanitation is not only necessary to the well-being of the individual but is indispensable to our economic strength and national security.

When we took over the Administration, the appropriations for public health were inadequate to meet the needs of our people. For the fiscal year 1955 a total of P49.9 million was provided for this purpose from all funds. This was raised to P71.9 million in 1956 and is further increased to P78.6 million in 1957. Significant increases are specifically provided for hospital services, rural health services, training in public health, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, maintenance of rest settlement homes, the Institute of Nutrition and quarantine services.

The Department of Health will continue to give special emphasis to its program of extending health services in the rural areas. In addition, the Department will step-up its standardization and improvement program for hospitals by providing additional personnel, improved subsistence of patients, and adequate medicines, equipment, and other hospital facilities. A performance goal of 2,593,000 patient days has been set for the coming fiscal year.

The skin clinic project of the Bureau of Hospitals merits special attention. It is planned to increase mobile skin clinics from two to five units during the next fiscal year. This will enable the early detection of cases of leprosy, especially in the rural areas where the disease may be endemic. Early control will lessen admission of cases to the several sanatoria.

The sum of P10 million is provided from bond funds under R. A. No. 1000 as well as P5 million of bonds to be issued under its own authority for the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority in 1957. These funds will permit this important agency to continue its work of constructing and operating water systems and waterworks over the country, including artesian wells, springs and sanitary sewers to provide adequate protection for the health and sanitary conditions of the people.

Labor Relations

The promotion of industrial peace through better labor-management relationships is in direct support of over-all economic development. Maximum production cannot be attained in an atmosphere of industrial unrest.

For the coming fiscal year, an estimated P2.8 million is proposed for the Department of Labor in contrast to P2 million in 1956. This should enable this Department to give more assistance to laborers by extending to them speedier action on their wage claims and compensation cases and by safeguarding their health through closer supervision of working and safety conditions. In addition the 1957 Budget provides funds for the creation of a Research and Statistics Office to compile labor statistics.

Employment activities involving free services to employers and job applicants to facilitate the employment process will be greatly expanded in 1957 with the larger appropriation of P264,700 for the National Employment Service.

We are also providing funds to assure Philippine representation to the general conference of the International Labor Organization at government expense.

National Defense and Maintenance of Peace and Order

A total of P134.2 million is included in the 1957 Budget for the Armed Forces. This represents a net reduction of P17.1 million from 1956.

Our internal security has improved. The Armed Forces have made outstanding gains in their campaign to maintain internal peace and order. Top dissidents and outlaw leaders have either surrendered to the Government or were killed in encounters.

I must, however, warn against complacency. We will not compromise or temporize with those who plot to overthrow our duly constituted Government.

We are now engaged in the important task of combatting Communist-led subversive forces who aim to sabotage our social and economic development program. Funds for intelligence services have been increased from P3.4 million in 1956 to P4.5 million in 1957.

An effective defense against such subversive elements is to advance the economic welfare of our people. Accordingly, I believe it serves the national interest to reduce direct military expenditures and to divert these funds to our nation building program.

Revenue Administration

The Tax Advisory Board has recommended that our revenue collection machinery be considerably strengthened to make it more efficient and to minimize tax evasion. The recommendation is in line with my belief that we must intensify our collection effort as the first step toward increasing revenues.

The Budget accordingly increases the funds available to the Bureau of Internal Revenue from P5.42 million in 1956 to P8.26 million in 1957. This will permit the Bureau to finance employment of 545 additional personnel and to strengthen its regional offices for a stepped-up campaign for tax collection.

Likewise, the appropriation for the Bureau of Customs is increased from P3.8 million in 1956 to P4.2 million in 1957. This will permit this Bureau to employ 57 additional employees.

Salaries of Government Employees

Our social and economic development program demands a corps of public servants who are competent and dedicated to public duty. The Government's system of personnel management and compensation must give the entire public service confidence that merit will be recognized and that government servants will be paid commensurate with the qualifications required and the level of responsibility carried.

There has been no general reclassification of government positions or standardization of salaries since pre-war. A few groups of positions have been classified and their salaries standardized, but these adjustments have been haphazard and have not covered all government personnel.

During the last year and a half, the Wage and Position Classification Office under the Budget Commission has made a scientific and comprehensive study of positions and salaries in the National Government and government-owned corporations. This study has shown that the principle of equal pay for equal work has not been closely and consistently adhered to.

I also invite your attention to the fact that salaries of Bureau Directors and Chiefs of Offices are quite inadequate. Compensation for these executives and technical personnel must be adjusted if we are to retain or attract high-caliber personnel.

The adjustment of the compensation of government officials and employees is recommended in reorganization plans submitted by the Government Survey and Reorganization Commission. I urge your consideration of these plans.

Counterpart Funds

Economic development utilizing International Cooperation Administration Aid has provided momentum for accelerated economic growth. Increased agricultural production and improvement of essential public services are being realized under this joint program.

By June 30, 1956, a total of \$139.8 million of U. S. aid will have been authorized for the Philippine program. The \$31.3 million already approved for fiscal year 1956 includes a \$6.9 million grant for military construction and a \$10.0 million loan for priority capital development projects, as well as substantial grant assistance to continuing projects. For next fiscal year, \$30.9 million has been requested by the Philippine Government.

A new feature of the joint program beginning with fiscal year 1956 consists of loans for government projects and for private industry. Emphasis in the aid program is gradually being shifted in the direction of more direct assistance to industry in the private sector. Commodities' assistance will continue to be provided to support key development projects.

The amount of P31,525,000 is included in this Budget to finance the cost of these planned activities in 1957 as compared with actual expenditures of P25,579,354 in 1955 and P45,756,468 in 1956. There are also included in the Budget for fiscal year 1957 special appropriations in the amount of P10,675,000 for operating costs of priority development projects such as land classification, water resources planning and development, mineral survey, the Industrial Development Center, Mindanao development roads, malaria control, statistical survey, community development and procurement costs.

IV. EXTENSION OF PERFORMANCE BUDGET

The provisions of Republic Act No. 992 explicitly require that the annual estimates of expenditures for Fiscal Year 1957 be presented in the form of a performance budget. This Budget is submitted in that form as required by law. In the General Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 1956 (R. A. No. 1350), Congress adopted the performance format for 12 selected agencies. I reiterate my recommendation in the State of the Nation message that the performance budget be adopted for more agencies. The Congress, in the enactment of the General Appropriation Act based on the 1957 Budget, may, therefore, adopt the performance type for additional agencies and the line-item type for other agencies as it may deem proper.

Conclusion

I must restate here that we can attain our goal of a balanced and accelerated national development while maintaining stability. With sound and comprehensive planning as an imperative basis, with wise selection and programming of productive projects and with bold but prudent fiscal policies, I am confident that we can realize the social and economic destinies of our country. Given unity of purpose and a spirit of dedication, I believe we can successfully venture upon the resolute program embodied in the 1957 Fiscal Plan.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). The President's Budget Message. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 732-756.

Ramon Magsaysay, Fourth State of the Nation Address, January 28, 1957

**Address
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 28, 1957]

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS:

Three years ago, as partners under the Constitution, we started on our mission of serving the people. As we enter upon our fourth year, it is timely that we review the results of our endeavors. Thus we may gain the proper perspective from which to view the work still undone.

When we started on this mission, we set for ourselves four main objectives:

- (1) To safeguard the security of the nation;
- (2) To promote the moral and material well-being of our masses;
- (3) To develop and stabilize the national economy; and
- (4) To improve the standards of public service.

How much has been done towards these objectives? How much more is to be done?

THE SECURITY OF THE NATION

Our first main objective has been the promotion of national security. This is in accordance with the constitutional mandate that the defense of the State is the prime duty of Government. To accomplish this end, we have proceeded on the basic premise that freedom is indivisible. We are secure in our freedom only as the world around is secure. Our efforts towards attaining our own security must, therefore, embrace the larger objective of contributing, however modestly, to the promotion of the peace and freedom of the world.

PEACE THROUGH U.N.

Accordingly, next only to our faith in the justice and mercy of God, we have placed our primary hopes for the attainment of this objective in the United Nations. With our recent election to the Security Council of the United Nations, an aspiration of the Philippine Government since 1951, we have gained an opportunity to participate more fully in the task of preserving international tranquility.

Within the framework of the United Nations Charter, we have pressed for the self-determination of subject peoples. We were active in helping to bring about the approval of the cease-fire resolution in the Israel-Egyptian crisis. We aligned ourselves forthrightly with the countries that condemned Soviet aggression in Hungary.

Pursuant to the same Charter, we have entered into regional and bilateral arrangements for our defense. Developments indicate that the Manila Pact, which we signed in September, 1954, has been one of the effective factors in deterring Communist aggression in Southeast Asia. In keeping with our treaty obligations, we have

intensified our participation in the planning and activities of SEATO. It is to the interest of national security that we insure our ability to participate even more actively in this organization.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S.

Parallel to this multi-lateral agreement, we continue to bolster our external defense through our mutual security arrangements with the United States of America. Such close relations as those which have resulted from these arrangements have naturally produced varied problems. Some of these we have solved—such as the question of the ownership of the base lands. Other problems, such as those discussed by our panel in the military bases talks, will require further negotiation. I am confident that the friendship which underlies the relations between our two countries will yield solutions consistent with our national dignity and security.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

In a very real sense, international understanding strengthens peace. With this objective in mind, we took steps to come closer to other countries of the free world, particularly those of Asia and Africa. To the allies that we had gained in SEATO, we added the new friends we made through participation in the Asian-African Conference of 1955. We resolved the Japanese reparations issue, ended the state of war with Japan, and established diplomatic relations with her.[1] We recognized and exchanged diplomatic representatives with various new Asian and African states and effected the long neglected diplomatic exchange with Burma.[2] We have also accredited a resident minister to the Federal Republic of Germany. Cultural and technical exchanges between the Philippines and other countries, especially in Asia, have never been as extensive as in the past three years.[3]

INTERNAL SECURITY

Our internal security has consistently improved. Our Armed Forces, having broken the back of the Communist armed rebellion, continue to seek out and destroy dissident remnants.

However, our military success has caused the Communists, abetted by foreign agents, to concentrate on the subversive phase of their movement. Their objective to overthrow the Government remains. But they would now achieve this principally by means other than force—by infiltrating the Government and private organizations, by seeking the legalization of their political activities, and by prostituting the democratic process—although this new strategy could at any time shift once again to armed rebellion.

To check this subversion and prevent the resurgence of armed dissidence, as well as to enable the Armed Forces to discharge their responsibility in the maintenance of our external security, we must keep them in a state of adequacy and preparedness.

CAFA RECOMMENDATIONS

The House Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities has recently made public a timely report on how best to meet this new direction in Communist tactics. Two of its recommendations, namely, the outlawing of the Communist Party and the amendment of the law on treason so as to make it applicable even when actual international hostilities do not exist would require specific legislative measures for their implementation. It is well that a Committee of this Congress has recognized the need of giving the Government the legal strength with which to anticipate and frustrate the Communists in their new approach. I would ask your action on such legislation.

These policies to safeguard the security of the nation have brought about the necessary climate tranquility and order for the effective pursuit of our other objectives.

THE WELL-BEING OF THE MASSES

We have pressed our program of social justice.

From the outset of our administration, we have emphasized the need for reforms and improvements in our land tenure system. Similarly, we have stressed the urgency of promoting the development of our rural communities.

LAND REFORMS

Through tenancy and land reform measures, we have improved the living conditions of our tenants and farmers. More than that, these new measures have opened up the path to land ownership. But ownership alone will not ensure to the small farmer the full enjoyment of his land. For this, it is necessary that he should operate his farm efficiently. We have, therefore, redoubled our efforts in assisting him to become an efficient farmer.

Since 1954, we have vigorously campaigned against the exploitation of tenants by their landlords. We are succeeding. We have helped the tenants secure a greater share of the fruits of their labors. Last year, the Court of Agrarian Relations was established. Within the brief period of its existence, this Court has shown its effectiveness in the settlement of tenancy disputes. This is a fresh advance towards agrarian peace.

The rate of land resettlement and land purchase for redistribution has not reached our expectations. It must be accelerated. But in another phase of land tenure improvement—the issuance of land patents—we have made unprecedented progress. The Bureau of Lands in the last three years granted a total of 124,200 land patents to qualified settlers.[4]

This figure is more than five times the total number of land patents issued during the period from 1946 to 1953. This fact not only reflects our intensified efforts in public land distribution but also attests to a significant advance in land reform. It means that we are setting up thousands of small independent farmers on land of their own, with the opportunity to work out a decent living for themselves and their families.

THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Two principal factors have contributed to the moral and material uplift of the people in our rural areas; namely, the rapid organization and dynamic operation of the farmers' cooperatives and the speedy implementation of the rural health program. ACCFA has organized a total of 416 farmers' cooperative marketing associations (FACOMAs) with paid-up capital of nearly P5 million. In 1953, marketing cooperatives with 6,643 members operated in 110 barrios. Today, these cooperatives exist in 10,314 barrios in 47 provinces, with a total membership of 241,000.

These farmers' cooperatives, with the support of ACCFA, have granted their members loans amounting to P98 million. In addition, the 68 rural banks now in existence, under a liberal Government policy, have extended loans to small farmers and tenants amounting to P26 million. Never before have our small farmers and tenants been afforded so much cheap credit, freeing them from the evils of usury and helping them to improve their lot.

We should now extend the proven benefits of cooperative organization throughout the country. We should carry the cooperative spirit not only to all the barrios but also to the towns and cities, by stimulating the establishment of credit unions, consumers' cooperatives, and wholesale cooperative associations. In support of this program, we are giving earnest consideration to the advisability of establishing a bank for cooperatives.

The improvement in agricultural production[5] and the general confidence among the rural people in the various measures introduced for their benefit are due in large measure to the agricultural extension workers and other technicians in the field. The teachers and school administrators connected with the community schools, the purok organizations, and the community development officers are equally effective in helping our communities make fuller use of their own capabilities and resources.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The people, whose welfare is the reason for the existence of the State, is also its most important resource. To promote this welfare and to sustain this resource, we have greatly expanded our health programs, especially where it is most needed—in the rural areas.

When we started in 1954, there were 81 rural health units. Today they number 1,100.[6] Indicating its great expansion, the public health service now covers 1,280 of the 1,300 municipalities in the country.

We have greatly increased public medical and hospital facilities.[7] Yet, much more is needed to meet the increasing needs of our people. We must continue to prosecute our public health program with vigor.

ROADS, IRRIGATION, WELLS

As an added measure of social amelioration, we have pushed forward an extensive program for the construction of roads, irrigation systems, and artesian wells.

During the last three years, we constructed and improved 5,273 kilometers of roads at a total cost of P153.5 million. We built 4,372 kilometers of graded roads for the small towns and barrios, at a total cost of P28.2 million. We completed five irrigation systems,[8]servicing 25,400 hectares, at a cost of P11.2 million and 95 communal irrigation projects, serving 43,000 hectares, at a cost of P127 million. We installed 188 irrigation pumps servicing 31,000 hectares. We drilled 5,885 artesian wells and completed communal water systems and spring improvements.

Under construction starting last year are 33 gravity irrigation systems covering an irrigable area of 152,250 hectares of an estimated cost of P94,645,100. This irrigable area is greater than the area irrigated by all the irrigation systems constructed by the Government from 1907 to 1953.

In addition to this, the Bureau of Public Works has programmed for 1957 to 1960 the construction of irrigation systems covering 244,100 hectares at an estimated cost of P147,000,000. This will bring the total irrigation area to 556,939 hectares, which is about five times that irrigated by the systems constructed from 1907 to 1953.

LABOR

Substantial gains have also been in the field of labor. We have encouraged the growth of strong and democratic unions. For every worker who held a union card at the beginning of our administration, there are now three. The number of registered labor unions reached a total of 2,216 in 1956, representing an increase of nearly 300 per cent over of that 1954.

We have given vitality to the Magna Charta of labor and other labor laws.[9] Collective bargaining has gained general acceptance. The Government has promoted regional labor-management conferences that have strengthened the basis of individual peace. Today Philippine labor enjoys greater security ever before.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The advances made in public education are no less significant. We have continued to give support and encouragement to the education of our youth, particularly in the remote communities. The increase in the number of schools and school teachers during the last three years has been considerable. We now have 104,250 teachers, compared with 91,665 three years ago. From 23,600 public schools in 1953, the number has increased to 26,370 in 1956. Our pre-fabricated school building program has assisted in providing during the last two years additional schoolhouses for the barrios.[10]

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE

The promotion of the well-being of our masses, through the measures I have described, has given them opportunities for a richer and fuller life[11] which they have never enjoyed in our history. It has restored their faith in Government

as an instrument for the political, economic, and social advancement of all the people, not of just a privileged few. Today the common people know and feel that they have a Government they can depend upon to protect their rights and promote their interests. In this way they have acquired a real stake in the preservation of our democratic way of life, and will not be easy prey to the deceptive promises of a false ideology.

All the people are the richer because of this. It is error to think we can ever achieve economic development and progress as long as the majority of our people live in substandard conditions. They would always be a drag on the entire nation. Their well-being is the solid foundation for real progress in economic development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our primary economic goal has been to strengthen and broaden the base of our economic activities. For unless a greater number of our people are engaged in productive enterprises sufficiently diversified to supply our basic necessities, increase the opportunities for employment, and raise the income of our workers, our economic structure will be weak and lopsided.

We will reach this goal by a balanced agricultural and industrial development. Thus we must continue to work towards reshaping our economic structure with the industrial side accounting for a rising proportion of our total output in the years ahead. We must foster an economy in which industrial expansion and agricultural progress are complementary. Industry can draw its raw materials from agriculture; in turn, as our farmers increase their income, the products of industry will have an expanding domestic market. In this way, there will be formed a partnership of enduring strength and a sound pattern for unlimited growth.

We are moving towards this goal.

INCREASED PRODUCTION

The volume of national production has increased. In 1956, the total volume of farm, forest, mineral, and manufacturing production was higher by 30 per cent than that of 1953.[12] Farm and forest production rose by 26 per cent; mineral production, by 11 ½ per cent. The output of our manufacturing industries registered a gain of 38 per cent, the highest made in any sector of the economy.

This rise in overall production is reflected in the national income. In 1953 the national income was 7 billion, 234 million pesos. In 1955, this went up to 7 billion, 804 million pesos, showing an increase of P570 million.

As I have stated, it was in the manufacturing sector of our economy where the greatest advance was attained. Thus, in 1956 alone, 175 manufacturing concerns qualified as new and necessary industries. We now have a total of 719 concerns which are engaged in new and essential industrial activities. Their total investment has now reached Php396 million.

The rapid progress attained in manufacturing may be gauged by considering the variety of consumer products which are now manufactured locally and are beginning to meet demands of domestic consumption. Such items as wearing apparel, footwear, cigarettes, school and office supplies, building and electrical materials, tires, and certain food products—all of which we used to import—are now being supplied from Philippine manufactures.

This growth in manufacturing production is partly due to the application of exchange and import controls. we have permitted the increased importation of machinery and raw materials for new essential industries without necessarily sacrificing the importation of an adequate amount of essential consumer items. It was due to this policy that our international reserves went down from \$305 million in 1953 to \$209 million in 1955. However, at the end of 1956, by the judicious application of exchange and import controls, our international reserves rose to \$226 million.

POWER DEVELOPMENT

It is recognized that power is a basic requirement for our industrialization. We have thus stepped up power development, the cheapest source of which in our country is water power. During the past three years, we continued the construction of the Ambuklao Hydro-electric Project on the Agno River, begun under the previous administration. The work was completed last month and the plant was put in service to furnish 75,000 kilowatts to the people of Northern and Central Luzon and Manila. We completed other projects started under our administration, with a total capacity of 26,200 kilowatts—the Maria Cristina No.2 Unit in Lanao, the Amburayan Chute Project in La Union, the Peñaranda Chute Project in Nueva Ecija, the Digos River and Talomo No. 2-B projects in Davao, and the Balombong River Project in Catanduanes.

We now have under construction, to be completed this year, the Loboc River Project in Bohol, the Agusan River Project in Bukidnon, and the Barit River Project in Camarines Sur, with a total capacity of 4,200 kilowatts. We have begun the construction of the Biñga Project on the Agno River with a capacity of 100,000 kilowatts.

Other projects, principally the Marikina Multi Purpose Project with 60,000 kilowatts, the Maria Cristina No.3 Unit with 50,000 kilowatts, and the Bubonawan Project with 10,000 kilowatts will be started this year. All these, together with thermal and diesel-electric plants installed by private utility operators, will provide our people with the necessary power to turn the wheels of industry and with conveniences to make their homes more livable.

METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY

To lay the basis for the development of a metallurgical industry, the National Shipyard and Steel Corporation (NASSCO) is now establishing the first pig-iron smelting plants in the country. These plants will process iron ore coming from our own mines into pig-iron which, in turn, will be used by existing steel mills. NASSCO will also establish rolling mills for steel plates and sheets which will be used in shipyards and other fabricating shops.

When all these plants are in operation within approximately two years, we shall have gone a long way towards supplying our needs for iron and steel from our own resources.

Complementary to the steps towards the development of the metallurgical industry, the Government should give impetus to further mineral exploitation, particularly of iron and other base metals. The large nickel-iron reserves in Nonoc Island, Surigao, which is now within a government reservation, should be opened for development. I recommend that Congress enact appropriate legislation on the matter.

The expansion of the economy, particularly in the industrial sector, results in the growth of urban communities and increases effective demand for domestic production. It also gives rise to a variety of new occupations, especially in supplementary industries and distributive trades. All this means increasing opportunities for employment of our labor force.

GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS

With respect to the Government's participation in business, I would like to state once more our policy. The Government should limit such participation only to cases where reasons of national interest require it, or when such participation is desirable in order to stimulate private investment in a particular field.

In line with this policy, the Government has disposed, is prepared to dispose, of its enterprises^[13] which do not fulfill either of the purposes stated, subject, of course, to proper safeguards for the public interest.

ECONOMIC PLANNING

In the achievement of these results, our effort has been guided in the main by the economic plan adopted at the start of our administration, which I announced on March 20, 1954.^[14] As I stated more than once, the plan was not inflexible but was to be updated periodically on the basis of past performance, changing conditions, and prospects of further advance.

In my state-of-the-nation message in 1954, I stressed the necessity of revitalizing the National Economic Council. To this end, Government Reorganization Plan No. 10 was approved in July, 1955, thus creating the machinery for the revision of the 1954 economic plan.

In the meanwhile, the end of free trade with the United States in 1955 and the then impending reparations agreement with Japan made it imperative that the newly reorganized Council begin the task of revision. Consequently, in September, 1955, I requested the National Economic Council to undertake the task. It soon became evident, however, that there were trends in the Council not in harmony with our fiscal policies. I reiterated these policies in my budget message to the Congress on February 6, 1956, which contained a comprehensive fiscal plan embodying an investment program and priorities in consonance with the 1954 economic plan.

Despite this, the trends continued. As a consequence, changes came about in the Council's membership in March, 1956. It was then that the NEC was able to proceed with its work consistently with our economic program.

On January 3, 1957, the National Economic Council submitted its recommendations for updating the 1954 economic development program. These recommendations included a system of industrial priorities to govern the allocation of foreign exchange, the administration of the Government's fiscal operations, and the extension of credit. We have adopted this industrial priority system as a guide in the implementation of projects which will make the maximum contribution to production, employment, and income.

As the implementing arm of the Government to carry out its part, pursuant to the economic program, a national, development authority charged with this function and with the supervision of government corporations is definitely needed. I, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law creating such an authority.

FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES

From the beginning, we have adhered to the principle, of promoting economic development without impairing monetary stability. We have, therefore implemented and coordinated our fiscal, monetary, and exchange control policies as instruments of development in accordance with this principle.

The annual fiscal budgets of the Government have given emphasis to public spending for economic development[15]. purposes. Total expenditures for economic development since 1954 have amounted to 1 billion, 39 million pesos, having risen from P151 million in 1953 to P440 million in 1956.

The significant record of production over the last few years was supported by a credit policy which continued to emphasize liberal assistance to projects whose contribution to the national income and to economic development was deemed high. More credits for socially desirable projects were made available by the increased number of branches and agencies of domestic financial institutions and the creation of more cooperatives and rural banks.

The total outstanding credit of all financial institutions reached 2 billion, 827 million pesos by the end of 1956, representing an increase of more than 1 billion, 58 million pesos since 1953.[16] During the same period, the share of agriculture and manufacturing in total bank credits increased substantially and the share of commerce and real estate correspondingly declined. This favorable shift in the pattern of distribution of bank credits indicates the effectiveness of our credit policies.

CONTROLLING INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

The high level of Government spending for development and the expansion of credit obviously carry with them inflationary tendencies which affect monetary stability. Rising prices and other inflationary pressures in the principal industrial countries have added to these tendencies. We have managed our fiscal and monetary policies in such a way as to minimize the adverse effects of these pressures on internal and external stability. These policies and the accompanying increase in local production have kept these inflationary trends under control.

To insure a more effective distribution of public funds among essential and strategic development projects, the Budget commission has prepared a five-year program of public investment. In coordination with this program, the Central Bank has formulated a five-year foreign exchange budget designed to meet the most important requirements of both private and public investments for foreign exchange

The close coordination now existing between the fiscal and the monetary authorities is an assurance that the five year fiscal budget and the five-year foreign exchange budget will be carefully and properly implemented.

CHECKING RISING PRICES

We are still faced with the problem of avoiding, in the months ahead, any marked increase in prices and in the cost of living arising from Government spending for development, as well as from inflationary trends abroad and the consequent heavy pressure on our international reserves.

To meet this problem, we will continue to adjust our foreign exchange allocations to the demand for essential consumer goods without impairing the requirements of high priority project. We will also keep our public borrowing through bond issue under constant review in order that any undue pressure on the reserves may be avoided.

I realize that the success of all these policies and the effective use of all these instruments will depend on the extent to which the Government can create a climate that will encourage private investments. An important element of this climate is the structure of tariff rates. Our present tariff rates, however, are not adequate to serve the purpose of economic development. I urge, therefore, that Congress give priority to this matter.

JAPANESE REPARATIONS

There is, finally, one aspect of our foreign exchange resources which requires our immediate attention—the need for properly directing the distribution and utilization of the goods and services from Japanese reparations. As part of our foreign exchange resources, these reparations payments will have to be synchronized and integrated with the allocation of all available financial resources of our country. Legislative authority is also necessary for a permanent office which would budget our requirements, supervise deliveries, and oversee the proper utilization and distribution of reparations goods and services in accordance with definite criteria.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

While we are engaged in the vital tasks of economic development, the Government must avoid unsound and dangerous policies which would nullify our gains.

There has been some agitation for the immediate and total removal of economic controls. As an ideal goal, an economy free from Government control is of course to be desired. However, under prevailing world conditions and in our present state of economic growth, the continuation of economic controls is a necessity. I would like to reiterate the view which I expressed on March 11, 1956, before the first Trade National Convention[17] that a system of exchange and import controls is still a necessary instrument today if we are to meet the requirements of our development projects and at the same time maintain the inflow of essential consumer goods not locally available.

Our recent experience has confirmed the correctness of this view. In 1955, our international trade was greatly unbalanced. But, by the improved application of import and exchange controls, coupled with the growth of new and essential industries, we were able to reduce our trade deficit and achieved a favorable balance of payments position at the end of 1956.[18]

Through the same means, we have been able to provide for the increased importation of machinery and raw materials and for the increased inflow of essential consumer goods to prevent any disrupting rise in domestic prices. This was done, on the one hand, by reducing further our non-essential imports and, on the other, by permitting the

importation of an adequate amount of essential consumer goods. In this way, through exchange and import controls, we have been able to meet both the requirements of our growing industry and the basic needs of our people without impairing the stability of our currency.

NO DOLLAR IMPORT LAW

In connection with our policy on exchange control, there is one aspect which I believe we should immediately re-examine. I refer to Republic Act No. 1410, otherwise known as the no-dollar import law. I entertained some apprehension about the wisdom of this legislation at the time it was presented to me for approval. But I thought we should give it a trial and so allowed the bill to become a law without my signature. However, the general effects of transactions authorized under this law have been found to be inconsistent with the objectives of exchange and import controls and may endanger the stability of our currency. I, therefore, urge the Congress to give this matter its immediate consideration.

We must be wary of measures which would have disastrous effects on our economy. I am particularly concerned about any move that would bring economic difficulties to our average citizen. In countries with which we trade, inflation and other economic problems are being aggravated by the situation in the Middle East. The impact of such developments on our economy is inevitable. We cannot afford to create more problems in our country. Progress is possible only in an environment of economic stability.

These are the steps which we have taken towards national security, rural uplift, and economic development. In the pursuit of these objectives, it is essential that the Government be so organized and operated that it may serve as an effective instrument for their attainment.

IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

The prime function of government is service to the people. It exists to protect their rights. It has been our policy that the Government shall not only respect the people's right but shall actively encourage their exercise.

To give meaning and substance to this positive approach to human rights, we established in 1954 the Presidential Complaints and Action Committee (PCAC). The enthusiasm which met the creation of this Committee continues undiminished. It is one more reason why the people feel so strongly that the Government is truly theirs.

There is still another beneficial result. Its creation has had a salutary influence on the public service. By acting as a readily accessible agency for receiving complaints, the PCAC has served to deter official wrongdoing. Thus, it has helped us to carry out our pledge of morality and honesty in the public service.

We have not relaxed vigilance against misconduct in office. Public office is a stern task-master, and among its exacting requirements is that a public servant must not only be blameless, but above suspicion. Accordingly, complaints against official wrongdoing have been promptly investigated and, where justified, the respondents have been dealt with in accordance with due process of law. There shall be no compromise with this resolve to maintain the highest standards of honesty and morality in the Government.

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

In order to discharge its mission, the public service must be possessed of still another essential attribute—efficiency. To bring this about, we have found it necessary to consider a general reorganization of the various agencies of the government. Our efforts in this direction have resulted in comprehensive, scientific, and functional reorganization plans, some of which have already been duly implemented.

Government service is only as efficient as the individual public servant is efficient. The public servant must, therefore, be provided with the necessary incentives to work efficiently and with the recognition that his efforts deserve. One of these incentives is adequate compensation. It is our resolve that this demand be satisfied within the

limits of our financial resources. To this end, we are now preparing for partial implementation of the plans formulated by the Wage and Position Classification Office (WAPCO), which would standardize government positions and provide for equitable compensation for services rendered. The budget which I shall submit to you next month will include this proposal.

LOCAL AUTONOMY

To give more appropriate expression to the popular will, we believe that we should give greater stress to local autonomy. In the daily lives of our people, the provincial city, municipal, and barrio agencies are the effective contacts between the citizen and his government. Furthermore, they are relied upon for the dissemination and execution of national policies.

In order to enable us to pay closer attention to the needs of local governments, I recommend the restoration of the Department of Interior. We are now considering specific proposals on this subject for your future action.

CONCLUSION

Members of the Congress: thus far we have gone in the past three years. We have provided for the national security, both within and without. Our masses, the vital object of our joint concern, have received priority in our efforts. Their well-being is paramount.

We have made progress in the economic sphere.

We have worked hard to assure that our Government continue to protect the liberty and dignity of the individual. We have discharged the positive duty incumbent on government of insuring the enjoyment of social and economic rights under the more complex conditions of this age.

Yet, much remains to be done.

We must continue our vigilance. Communism, with its ever-shifting tactics, remains a threat.

We cannot afford to falter in our social justice program. The masses of our people, the base of our democracy, will continue to be the beneficiaries of our special concern.

We must accelerate the pace of economic progress. Mindful of our duty to our people and determined in our goals, we must surpass our accomplishments of the past three years with a renewed dedication to the public welfare.

May God continue to guide us in the service of our people.

I thank you.

[1] Other important international agreements entered into besides the Manila Pact, the revision of the Bell Act, and the Japanese Reparations agreement were: (1) Protocol on Trade Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Egypt, signed at Washington, January 18, 1955 (2) Exchanges of Notes extending the barter agreement between the Philippines and Japan; (3) Agreement concerning Migration of Filipino Labor for Employment in British North Borneo, signed at Manila on August 30, 1956; (4) Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United States of America concerning civil uses of atomic energy, signed at Washington on July 27, 1955.

[2] The Philippines recognized the States of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in 1955, and Morocco, Tunisia, and Sudan in 1956. This year we will exchange diplomatic representatives with Egypt, where we established a consulate last year. Likewise we will establish diplomatic relations with Israel and are now negotiating diplomatic exchanges with Ceylon and Iraq.

[3] The Department of Foreign Affairs sponsored the organization of the Cultural Foundation of the Philippines which, with private support, has begun a program of cultural exchange, especially with Asian countries. The Foundation has brought to the Philippines cultural groups from India and Indonesia and has sponsored a Philippine cultural mission to Taipeh. This year it expects to send a Philippine cultural group to other parts of Southeast Asia.

The Philippines availed itself of over 80 scholarships offered by different Asian countries under various cultural exchange programs. On the other hand, there has been an increased number of scholars and students from Southeast Asia who have come to the Philippines. This program of cultural exchange is conducted under the Cultural Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs with the cooperation of other official and private agencies.

[4] These cover 650,000 hectares of agricultural lands.

[5] Total agricultural production increased from 8,150,800 metric tons in 1953 to 9,049,500 tons in 1956, or by 11 per cent. Food crops increased by 8.8 per cent, from 5,781,200 tons in 1953 to 6,289,000 tons in 1956. Commercial or export crops increased by 16.5 per cent, from 2,369,600 tons in 1953 to 2,760,500 tons in 1956.

[6] This number includes 801 completely staffed units, 233 incomplete units, and 66 junior units. A complete unit consists of a health officer, a nurse, a midwife, and a sanitary inspector. A junior unit is composed of two persons.

[7] We have increased the number of government hospital beds from 7,475 in 1954 to 10,050; the number of doctors in these hospitals, from 342 to 629; nurses, from 770 to 1,651; and those in the technical staffs, from 426 to 715. Likewise, the number of government physicians in the field has increased from 439 in 1953 to 1,134 in 1956.

[8] Under construction are 23 gravity irrigation systems to irrigate a total area of 124,800 hectares.

[9] Through the Department of Labor and its 52 regional offices, laborers' claims have been more effectively enforced. Over the last three years nearly P3,000,000 was collected in wage restitutions.

[10] Of the 3,720 room units completed in 1956 by the Armed Forces, 1,593 have been erected in the different barrios. The rest are either in transit or in the process of erection. The number of room units constructed this year is almost three times that in 1950.

[11] On another front of socio-economic amelioration, low-cost housing, the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation last year neared completion of Project 6 and 7 and started Project 8 near Manila, and broke ground for low-cost housing projects in Tagaytay, Cebu, and Tacloban. We have also relaxed the terms for acquisition of PHHC low-cost houses to encourage home ownership by low-income groups

[12] Index of Physical Volume of Production

(1953=100)

Combined Index Agricultural(a) Mining Manufacturing

1953 100----- 100 100 100

1954 111----- 111 96 112

1955 120————— 118 105 127

1956^b 130————— 126 126 138

^a Crop year figures include forestry and fisheries.

^b Estimates for this year are based on figures for the first two quarter.

SOURCE: Department of Economic Research, Central Bank of the Philippines.

[13] The Government has withdrawn from the international airline service, leased the Manila Hotel, and offered for sale, through public bidding, the Bacnotan cement plant. Bids were offered for the Bacnotan cement plant on January 22, 1957.

[14] See President's address at Far Eastern University on March 20, 1954.

[15] Comparative Amounts devoted to Economic Development (Million Pesos)—

Year Total

1953 (actual).....151.0

1954 (actual).....267.7

1955 (actual).....330.9

1956 (actual).....440.7

1957 (estimated).....479.1

[16] The total outstanding domestic credit of the Central Bank, other banks and selected financial institutions from December, 1953, to October, 1956, increased from P1,768,1000,000 to P2,826,8000,000 or 59.9 per cent. Of the total credits outstanding on October 31, 1956, P339,7000,000 are of the Central Bank; P1,644,200,000 are of commercial banks; P788,900,000 are of selected financial institutions consisting of the RFC, GSIS, ACCFA, rural banks, pawnshops, and building and loan associations.

[17] "We cannot hope to diversify our production end industrialize our economy without providing an increased amount of foreign exchange with which to purchase essential producers goods from abroad for our economic development. In brief, to achieve our goal of greater self-sufficiency for home consumption and to minimize our present dependence on imports, we must purchase abroad the machinery, equipment, and materials which will permit us to activate new industries. In this process our foreign exchange control system is of vital importance.

"As our industrialization efforts become successful in the next few years and as our economy develops sufficiently to supply the home markets, we will become less and less dependent on this type of control as an artificial method of achieving our goals. But at the present time the judicious and controlled use of our foreign exchange is essential in order to give us access abroad to producers goods for major economic development projects. Only" when a natural balance of imports and exports is reached can. we abandon our present system, perhaps coming to rely then on tariff measures for controls still needed."

[18] Substantial progress was made in spreading our foreign trade to other areas. Our total trade with Northwest Europe in the first eight months of last year was 42.3 per cent above the corresponding period the year previous, and

our total trade with Asia was up 13.5 per cent. For the first time since 1919, the United States in the first eight months of 1956 accounted for less than 60 percent of our total trade.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

Letter of President Magsaysay to the Philippine Committee to Japan

**Letter
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the Philippine Committee to Japan, through Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez**

[Released on April 29, 1954]

April 29, 1954

GENTLEMEN:

I HAVE ASKED you to undertake a most important assignment for our country, and that is, as the wording of your respective designations states, to “survey and appraise present and prospective economic conditions in Japan with a view to assessing in the light of those conditions the amount which Japan can pay as war reparations to the Philippines, and also to provide our government with a body of up-to-date facts regarding Japan to guide this administration in the conduct of our trade relations with that country.”

I expect you, in discharging this assignment, to avail yourselves of all sources of information in Japan that can contribute to the general store of information that you are seeking to gather, supplemented by your own personal observations and studies and by the results of the contracts that you will have established with competent parties in that country. I am also making available whatever technical assistance you may need from our own government, and you will obtain such assistance as the need for it arises and you call for it.

There are existing surveys of and studies on the Japanese economy, made several years ago by competent officials of our own government, which you will of course utilize to the full as points of reference. It goes without saying that it is in fact one purpose of your mission to bring these studies up to date, since it is on the basis of present and actual conditions in Japan, and not of conditions as they were some years ago, that you are expected to determine that country's capacity to pay reparations.

Furthermore, there is the consideration that the previous studies had been undertaken under the direction of a previous administration, and while I certainly have the highest respect for the competence, intelligence, and integrity of those who participated in them, this does not alter the fact that the new administration is under obligation to make its own study and gather its own findings, since it will be held fully responsible for whatever action it finally decides to take.

We agreed at my last meeting with you that, as I mentioned earlier, you will tap and avail yourselves of all sources of information on the subject matter of your mission. Inevitably, you will be brought face to face, just as the previous studies had been brought face to face, with facts, figures, and statistics originating from Japanese source. I have no doubt that you will be able to sift such facts, figures, and statistics through a system of checks and rechecks, governed by your own sense of judgment and critical appraisal, to the end that facts shall be separated from fancy, the true from the false, just as presumably was done by those who undertook the prior studies. For this reason, I have no fear at all that you may be “taken in” by the information that shall be made available to you by the Japanese, in the same manner that it has not been charged that the prior investigators were misled by their Japanese sources of information.

I am fully aware of the temptation to approach this matter emotionally. It is an inclination I have experienced myself. But we have no right to let personal feelings into a matter of such major importance to the well-being of this nation and its people.

The need to be sober and objective at this time is great. We cannot ignore the primary obligation of safeguarding our present economy and expanding it for the future. Where the livelihood of so many of our citizens is involved, there is no place for the gamble of extremism, there is no place for anything but patient, firm, and skillful action. The accuracy of your findings will ensure such action.

I wish you success.

Sincerely yours,

RAMON MAGSAYSAY
President of the Philippines

The PRESIDENTIAL FACT FINDING COMMITTEE TO JAPAN
Through Honorable JAIME HERNANDEZ, *Chairman*
Manila

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's letter sent to the Philippine Committee to Japan, through Finance Secretary Jaime Hernandez, in the evening of April 29, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(5), 1956-1958.

Letter of President Magsaysay to Senator Claro M. Recto

**Letter
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To Senator Claro M. Recto**

[Released on August 11, 1954]

DEAR SENATOR RECTO:

RELATIVE to Senate Resolution No. 26, authorizing the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security to inquire into an aspect of our military situation, I would like to inform you that for reasons of national security which I deem imperative, I have directed General Alfonso Arellano to discontinue his own investigation of the matter.

I do sincerely believe that, in the wake of recent explosive developments in the international scene, particularly in the Far Eastern theater, there arises to my mind, a compelling necessity for all concerned to discontinue investigation of the foregoing matter. Inasmuch as General Arellano has already dropped his own investigation, may I suggest that the Senate Committee likewise forego its own investigation for reasons herein alluded to.

It will interest you to know, I am sure, that I was responsible for the relief of Lt. Col. Conrado Rigor and three other officers and for the withdrawal from circulation of the publication wherein the article of Lt. Col. Camins appeared.

Trusting that you will see eye to eye with me in the wisdom of the discontinuance of the Senate investigation, and with renewed assurances of my highest esteem, I am.

Sincerely yours,
RAMON MAGSAYSAY

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Letter of President Magsaysay to Senator Claro M. Recto. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3531.

Letter of President Magsaysay to Neri to formalize the latter's selection as Chief Negotiator on Japanese Reparations, October 9, 1954

**Letter
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To Neri to formalize the latter's selection as Chief Negotiator on Japanese Reparations**

[Released on October 9, 1954]

THE
FELINO
MANILA

HONORABLE
NERI

SIR:

I AM pleased to inform you that to formalize your selection as Chief Negotiator for the Philippine Government on the reparations question, you are hereby designated, pursuant to the powers vested in me by law and in accordance with the recommendation of the Council of Leaders, Chairman of the Philippine panel to undertake said negotiations with the representatives of the Japanese Government, if and when they are resumed.

For this purpose, you are also hereby invested with the rank of full ambassador.

In this capacity, you shall consider yourself as directly responsible to the President. I urge you, however, to seek counsel and advice from time to time from the consultative committee of the Council of Leaders and the Department of Foreign Affairs, should such consultation be warranted, and shall report to me on such matters as may require my attention.

The restoration of normal relations with Japan being dependent on the satisfactory settlement of the reparations question, our position thereon, should it be decided to have the negotiations resumed, shall be based on the recent data made available to the Philippines, particularly the report of the Hernandez Survey Mission to Japan.

Very truly yours,

RAMON MAGSAYSAY
President of the Philippines

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of President Magsaysay to the National Economic Council

**Letter
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the National Economic Council**

[Released on October 6, 1955]

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL
THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN
MANILA

GENTLEMEN:

I have been informed that my letter of September 5, 1955, referring to the Council for its consideration an “Outline of Program” which contains certain observations on existing economic policies, has been played up in some of the newspapers as a directive from me which the Council is supposed to observe.

My letter of September 5, merely reiterates my request that the Council re-study the five-year development program. As I have no desire in any way to limit its freedom of action, the Council is free to use its own judgment in its study of economic policy.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) RAMON MAGSAYSAY

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Letter of President Magsaysay to the National Economic Council, October 6, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(10), 5046.

PRESS STATEMENTS

Statement: President Magsaysay on the Huks

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the Huks**

[Released on February 20, 1954]

OUR countrymen in the hills have until midnight tomorrow, February 22, within which to accept the government's offer of a just peace and a chance at new life. I call on them now to re-examine their situation most carefully.

Many of them, I know, have been mis-led to dissidence by the promise of land of their own. But this promise has not been fulfilled—it can never be fulfilled by those who lead them—and they are still without land.

It is not so with their peaceful and law-abiding countrymen. They are being moved into new settlements opened by the government. They are already enjoying the reality, not just the idle promise, of land of their own. As our land-settlement program keeps expanding, many more hectares of fresh and virgin land will be made available to our citizenry.

I call upon those who have been mis-guided to compare the futility of their situation with the reality of our land-for-the-landless program. There is still time for them to exchange despair for hope. The government's terms are fair and just. They keep open the door to a new life for the truly repentant and sincere.

Otherwise, they will have to meet the full force and power of our arms. I want them to know that they cannot win.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's statement on the Huks, February 20, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(2), 560-561.

Statement: President Magsaysay on the motive of negotiations with certain dissident groups, February 21, 1954

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the motive of negotiations with certain dissident groups

[Released on February 21, 1954]

IN authorizing negotiations with certain dissident groups which have indicated a desire to surrender, I have been motivated by the desire to explore every possibility of restoring peace and order, and of securing complete unity among our people in the shortest possible time.

I am glad to note that our people have not given sway to premature enthusiasm or to premature relaxation of vigilance.

We have engaged in these negotiations with a full understanding of Communist tactics and strategy. We have been alert to their technique of shifting from “armed struggle” when defeated to “legal struggle” and subversion by infiltration and sabotage.

Now, as the deadline approaches, I wish to repeat that we are prepared to give each and every dissident who surrenders the fullest opportunity to prove sincerity and good faith. Those charged with specific crimes may expect absolute justice tempered by the mercy which is traditional among us. Those not so charged will be given every assistance to make a fresh start and earn a decent livelihood.

Our approach to this problem must be broadly humanitarian, but it must not compromise the sovereign authority of the Republic or gamble with the national security.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Magsaysay on our Asian foreign policy

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On our Asian foreign policy**

[Released on March 10, 1954]

I AM in full agreement with the leaders of Congress in the following statement of our Asian foreign policy: The Philippine Government stands for the right of self-determination and independence of all Asians nations; for closer cultural and economic relations and mutual cooperation with freedom-loving Asian countries as a group and within the framework of the charter of the United Nations; and for the proposition that a return to colonialism, of which the last vestiges are now disappearing from Asia, shall not be tolerated in any form.

The colonialism that threatens Asia today is world Communism. Nations which have won their freedom from old-style colonialism now face the danger of losing that freedom. A good defense against this threat is a healthy Asian nationalism, a nationalism which defends the right of all Asian peoples to self-determination. We support this kind of nationalism as a rallying point for all free Asians against the forces of aggression and subversion.

The Filipino people can best serve the cause of freedom and democracy by cooperating actively with other Asian peoples in the achievement and maintenance of political independence, economic stability, and social justice. We cannot contribute to that cause if we isolate ourselves from other freedom-loving Asian states and are suspected by them of ulterior motives or insincerity in our relations with them. Our Asian policy must, therefore, seek to remove all causes of distrust.

Our Asian policy is not directed against any nation or race. We recognize the fact that to achieve our goals, under-developed countries in this region need the assistance of more advanced economies and that each Asian country should be free to decide for itself whether or not it desires such assistance as well as the conditions it believes compatible with its sovereignty and economic objectives.

For ourselves, we have entered into agreements with the United States of America for mutual defense and special trade relations. There is no incompatibility between the political and economic ties and solidarity of aspirations in peace and in war, which have bound our two countries for more than half a century, and our warm desire to become good neighbors in Asia in a united effort, imposed by geographical propinquity and racial affinities, to achieve the general prosperity of this region. Rather, these two complementary objectives should give us that balanced foreign policy which we have lacked in the past.

I trust that all patriotic Filipinos will agree on this policy of freedom and friendship in Asia.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Statement of the President on our Asian foreign policy, March 10, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 995-996.

Statement: President Magsaysay on the suspension of long-range international operations by PAL

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:

On the suspension of long-range international operations by PAL

[Released on March 30, 1954]

FOR the past several months this Administration has been studying a most difficult problem involving the future role of Philippine Air Lines based on its present financial situation and future requirements.

The consideration given to this matter has been searching and comprehensive. A special three-man committee was appointed for this purpose and worked closely with the management of the airline. I also discussed with Colonel Andres Soriano, on a number of occasions, various matters in detail relating to the company's future operation. The Council of State likewise gave the matter its closest attention and deliberation.

While a conclusion had been reached as a result of these studies, nevertheless it was deemed appropriate to permit the new Board of Directors of PAL an opportunity to consider the matter. As the members representing the Government were only recently appointed, it was felt that they should be given ample time to familiarize themselves with the situation before coming to any conclusion. The entire Board of PAL, representing both the Government and private stockholders, have presented their recommendations, which agree in detail with all others who have been consulted.

I am confident that there is no other course than the one adopted and still permit the Administration to remain firm in its pledge to effect rigid economy in Government and to give priority to projects which will raise the living standards of people throughout the country, particularly in rural areas.

PAL, therefore, will suspend all long-range international operations, effective immediately, and will concentrate on further development of its domestic services, and will continue to be active in regional services throughout Southeast Asia. On its part, the Government will allocate funds heretofore paid to the company for international airmail carriage after paying current amounts due the airline, for the development, construction, and maintenance of airports throughout the Archipelago, thus making air transportation available to a greater number of its population than has been the case in the past.

I am sure that it was the hope of all of us, as it must be of all the people in the Philippines, that the international operations of the airline would not only be continued, but that other expansion of its services might be carried out. Unfortunately, a realistic appraisal of the situation dimmed these hopes, especially when we considered that the money needed for the airline's international operations might be utilized for land resettlement projects, artesian wells, and other projects benefiting a larger majority of our people.

There is no question that PAL has been able to compete successfully, and equally or better, with its competitors in the international field. We have every reason to believe that with the financing required, particularly in respect to the acquisition of new equipment which had to be purchased immediately, the airline would have continued to maintain its place of eminence and achievement in international aviation, remaining a credit to the nation.

The Government is indebted to the management of PAL for its activities during the past several months, when every effort was made to provide a solution for the problem, short of burdening the Government with heavy financial requirements. In seeking to obtain capital funds in the amount needed, discussions were held with other interested parties in the United States and Europe. While we are appreciative of the interest shown by other air carriers, an agreement that meets the requirements of the nation could not be reached. In any event, funds for future airmail payments could not be included in the budget and remain consistent with the Administration's policies. Without these funds, of course, the international operations of PAL, in the same manner as all international air carriers of the world, cannot exist.

As one the objectives of this national aviation policy is to make more air transportation available to our people, we have endorsed the management's present program of extending service with modern de luxe Convair 340's and reduced-rate high-density DC—3 equipment when economically feasible, and of continuing its extensive studies for the proposed introduction of large helicopter service, especially to areas in which airports will not be available. These studies are being conducted with due consideration to sound economic principles and with the view to keeping the Philippines abreast or ahead of aviation trends.

The development, construction, and maintenance of airports throughout the country, which is to be given priority attention, will strengthen national activity in case of emergency.

We are pleased to announce that Colonel Soriano will continue as President and head of the management of PAL.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's statement on the suspension of long-range international operations by PAL, March 30, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(3), 1015-1017.

Policy Statement: President Magsaysay on the Indo-China crisis

**Policy Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the Indo-China crisis**

[Issued on April 18, 1954]

THE PHILIPPINE government agrees in principle with the United States' proposal to issue a joint declaration against Communist aggression in Indo-China.

Our first concern is, as it has always been, our national security. This concern today has become more grave with the deepening crisis in Indo-China.

In the interest of our national security, it is our duty to strengthen ourselves in every way. But in the face of the Communist peril in Asia, it has also become our great duty to multiply our strength through joint action with our allies in the free world. It is particularly important to maintain our alliance with the United States, which is today the principal bulwark of the free world against Communist aggression and tyranny.

In the Indo-China crisis, however, there is an element which is of great concern to the Philippines as an Asian country. This is the political element of independence of the peoples of Indo-China.

I believe that the proposed declaration should contain an affirmation of the rights of all peoples to freedom and independence. Thus, it would not only be a warning against further Communist aggression in Asia, but an assurance that the contemplated united action is aimed at the defense of the independence of the Indo-Chinese peoples against Communist imperialism or any other threat.

The joint declaration, to have maximum effectiveness, should approach as closely as possible the guarantees of the Atlantic Charter. It should be the Asian equivalent of that historic document.

I have instructed our delegation to Geneva to support any move towards establishing a NATO-type alliance provided the following conditions are met: First, that the right of Asian peoples to self-determination is respected; and second, that the Philippines be given a plain and unequivocal guarantee of U. S. help in case of attack under our Mutual Defense Pact.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay's policy statement, April 18, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(4), 1539-1540.

**Statement: President Magsaysay on the creation of the Fact-Finding Commission on Japan's capacity to pay,
April 23, 1954**

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the creation of the Fact-Finding Commission on Japan's capacity to pay

[Released on April 23, 1954]

FOR my own satisfaction, in order to ascertain the capacity of the Japanese Government to meet our reparations demands, I have decided to appoint a special investigating commission to proceed immediately to Japan. I have in mind asking the following to go:

Secretary
Soc
Jaime
Francisco

Jaime

Hernandez
Rodrigo
Velasquez
Ortigas

One representative each from the Malacañang and the Congressional press associations

This commission does not, in any way, interfere with the negotiations now being conducted here. The matter of reparations, of trade, and of diplomatic relations with Japan are of great importance to our country. The present real menace of war in Southeast Asia also requires that we normalize our relations with anti-Communist nations of the Far East. This includes trade. We must do our utmost to protect our industries in their dealings with other countries. In any decision that I may be called upon to make, I want, as far as possible, to have complete possession of the facts.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Statement: President Magsaysay on the government's stock interest in the PAL

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the government's stock interest in the PAL**

[Released on May 17, 1954]

IN VIEW of speculation in recent weeks regarding the administration's views concerning the commercial aviation industry in the Philippines, I would like to restate the government's policy.

The government intends to retain a substantial interest in PAL in view of its economic and security importance to the Philippines. The government is not now negotiating or considering any offers that would lead to the sale of any or all of its financial holdings in PAL.

The management which organized and developed this company, headed by Colonel Andres Soriano, will continue to perform this service.

The government's present policy regarding its financial interest in PAL of course does not rule out future consideration of any legitimate offer to purchase some portion of the government's stock. Such consideration would be wholly in accordance with the administration policy to permit, whenever feasible and in the best public interest, private capital to invest in corporations in which public funds have in the past been subscribed. Such private investment, however, must provide real benefit to the airline and to the country.

The national air carrier is an institution identified with progressive spirit of the country and its future contributions to the national welfare are regarded to be of such importance that it is essential that any revision in the company's financial structure be consistent with and suited to this mission.

The airline's future activities will be substantially dependent on the condition of airports throughout the country. While government financial support of airport development, maintenance, and construction projects can be fully justified on the economic benefit to be derived by the country from a sound air transportation system, airports have an added and more important value in the strategic defense requirements of the Philippines. Consequently, as I have pledged before, the program to improve airports throughout the Philippines is regarded as an essential objective of the administration.

As part of the government's consideration of the requirements of PAL, I have asked the Congress to give priority to a bill authorizing the payment to the airline of P3,187,583.25. This amount is owed to the company for past airmail compensation. The appropriation will assist the company in its program of strengthening and expanding services throughout the Philippines.

I would like to reaffirm my belief that PAL will continue as a valuable servant of the nation and that it will, by concentrating wholly on domestic and vital regional operations, suitably fulfill the requirements of a sound air transportation system in the development of the economy of the Philippines.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1954). The President's statement on the government's stock interest in the PAL, May 17, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(5), 1962-1963.

Statement: President Magsaysay after signing Senate Bill No. 45, known as the Performance Budget Bill

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:

After signing Senate Bill No. 45, known as the Performance Budget Bill

[Released on June, 1954]

I AM particularly happy to sign this bill into law. It represents a truly significant milestone in the development of a democratic society, and will make it easier for the Government to serve the public needs.

The budget is the keystone of modern, democratic government. It is the one place where the citizen can look to find out how much his government is spending and for what purposes. Unfortunately, in the past, our budgets have been so detailed and so large and cumbersome that only the experts could fully appreciate them. Too much emphasis was focused on the number and salaries of personnel to be employed, the cost of supplies, materials, furniture, and equipment to be acquired, rather than on the objectives or purposes to be accomplished.

Under this new law, future budgets will be presented in terms of the activities and services they are proposed to buy. Eventually, when this law becomes fully operative, these services will be measured in unit costs so that the public can quickly see how much a particular service is costing the country. With this system, the public will be in a better position to determine just how much governmental services it wishes to buy.

After it gets accustomed to the new method of presentation, the Congress will favor performance budgeting. With it, Congress will be able to exercise a greater measure of control and guidance over public expenditures. As the representative of the people, the Congress will have in its hands a device that will enable it to provide funds for the services the public needs.

This new system of budgeting will also be a great assistance to the operating departments and agencies. Under it, the program objectives of the several agencies will receive greater consideration. Effective and economical operations will not be short-changed. Operating heads will have a greater degree of flexibility, as well as responsibility.

I am very grateful to the many fine people and organizations who assisted in the preparation of the bill. I want to congratulate Senator Puyat for sponsoring the bill and guiding it through the Senate. Likewise, may I commend the able and distinguished Congressman Fornier and Congressman Mitra for their work in getting the bill through the House.

I have directed Commissioner Aytona to move as rapidly as possible on the implementation of the performance budget. The one which I shall present to the Congress next year will be partially on the new basis. That for 1956–57, the following year, will be completely on that basis.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Ramon Magsaysay's statement after signing Senate Bill No. 45, known as the Performance Budget Bill. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(6), 2430-2431.

Press Statement: President Magsaysay on praising Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and Major General Jesus Vargas, June 29, 1954

Press Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On praising Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo and Major General Jesus Vargas

[Released on June 29, 1954]

THE implementation of the Treaty of Mutual Defense between the Philippines and the United States signifies that the Philippines will continue to be maintained and strengthened as a rampart of peace and freedom in Southeast Asia.

Now that a continuing council has been set up in accordance with the provisions of the treaty, we shall have an existing machinery to supervise the measures by which the defensive military cooperation between our two countries may be enhanced. In these days of grave peril in Southeast Asia, this is a development of great significance. It is only necessary to emphasize that the establishment of the continuing council, like the treaty itself, is a contribution to the maintenance of peace in our region and is not inspired by warlike or aggressive purposes.

The implementation of the treaty is one of the missions I entrusted to General Romulo as my special and personal envoy. He has reported to me every step of the negotiations that he undertook to accomplish his mission. Because I want it to be a rule of my administration that public officials who carry out their duties faithfully and ably should be given every credit for their service, I wish to publicly express my appreciation and that of our people to General Romulo for the competence with which he conducted the difficult negotiations.

When he asked me to send General Vargas to assist him on matters affecting the defense of the Philippines, I readily consented knowing that he will have in the chief of staff of our armed forces a soldier with the proper background to help him in his discussions with both the State Department and the Pentagon. General Vargas has reported to me how fruitful his conferences were with the secretary of defense, Mr. Wilson, Admiral Radford, General Ridgway, and other members of the joint chiefs of staff. He had a series of conferences with all those in the Pentagon who had anything to do with the defense problems of the Pacific. That he was decorated with the Legion of Merit and was received by President Eisenhower at the White House are tokens of the high regard in which our armed forces are held in the United States. I am sure that the result of the series of military conferences that General Vargas had with the highest military authorities in Washington has brought about a deeper understanding of our national defense problems on the part of our American allies and a better concept of the mutuality of interests between our two nations.

To all those who assisted and collaborated with General Romulo and General Vargas in this undertaking, I also wish to express the country's and my own appreciation. They have all done well.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Magsaysay on General Romulo's return to the Philippines

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On General Romulo's Return to the Philippines**

[Released on July 22, 1954]

GENERAL ROMULO, who came to Manila at my request reported to me today on all the matters which he took up with the United States Government on my instructions.

There is unquestionably a reservoir of good will and friendship in the United States on the part of the administration and the American people for us. The difficulty is in securing attention to our problems in competition with the vast global demands on the U. S. Government, the exacting requirements of American national security and the pressure of foreign policy exigencies, as well as the manifold domestic questions facing an administration in a congressional election year.

It should be a matter of gratification for us that despite all these, we got preferential attention for all those matters that I asked General Romulo to take up in Washington. This is American support which I deeply appreciate and which I know our people acknowledge gratefully. I am conscious of the fact that such backing as our administration is getting in Washington also stems from our unrelenting fight for Democracy against Communism.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Statement: President Magsaysay on General Romulo's return to the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(7), 3024.

Statement: President Magsaysay on Guam Labor, August 19, 1954

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On Guam Labor**

[Released on August 19, 1954]

In view of the controversial and contradictory statements and reports which have been made public since the investigations of Guam labor commenced several months ago, I feel that it is necessary to clarify the government's position on this matter.

We shall continue our efforts to seek continually improving wages and conditions for our citizens on Guam and on any other possession of the United States. We feel certain that the publicity attendant to the Guam investigations and to these efforts will not be misconstrued by the American Government as lack of appreciation on our part of the fact that so many of our citizens have been offered employment opportunities in Guam and elsewhere.

Thousands of our citizens are directly or indirectly affected by the overseas employment opportunities which have been extended to them. I wish to make it clearly understood that my administration earnestly hopes and desires that the American Government will continue to give our people such opportunities under the best obtainable conditions, and that these opportunities will increase in the future.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Magsaysay on reiterating his policy against gifts

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On reiterating his policy against gifts

[Released on August 25, 1954]

GIFT-GIVING is a fine Christian tradition. I believe in it, practiced properly. Yet on my birthday anniversary, I would like to request my friends to dispense with gift-giving as a gesture of their good wishes, because their personal greetings will be valuable enough for me. They know it has been my policy to decline material tokens on this or any other occasion, and I am glad that they have always respected my wishes in this regard, thus avoiding embarrassments.

My well-wishers will make me happier if they turned over the equivalent of whatever they might have planned to give me, to the Liberty Wells Association, or to any other civic or charitable project of their choosing. Such a present I would truly cherish and appreciate, for it would redound to the betterment and welfare of our people.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Statement: President Magsaysay on reiterating his policy against gifts. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3540.

Press Statement: President Ramon Magsaysay on Strengthening the Security of the Philippines

Press Statement by President Ramon Magsaysay: On Strengthening the Security of the Philippines

[Released on September 9, 1954]

DECISIVE steps have been taken in the past several days to strengthen the security of the Philippines and of the entire area of Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

Last Saturday, the 4th of September, the United States-Philippine Council met and agreed that the armed forces of the Philippines should be strengthened through the "cooperative efforts" of the two countries. On that occasion, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles reaffirmed in the most emphatic terms the intention of the United States to "honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty."

"If the Philippines were attacked," Mr. Dulles declared, "the United States would act immediately." He also said that in case of attack on the Philippines the American forces "would automatically react."

This declaration has since been affirmed in a formal exchange of notes between the two governments. In his note dated the 7th of September and released for publication today, Mr. Dulles states categorically that "an attack on the Philippines is an attack also on the United States . . . with all the consequences that this would imply" and repeats the above-quoted statements. Agreement was also reached between our two governments on specific proposals made by the Philippine Government to strengthen its armed forces for external defense.

On Wednesday, the 8th of September, the Manila Conference of 1954 adopted the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty and the Pacific Charter originally proposed by the Philippines. The Treaty binds the Governments and peoples of Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Philippines to take collective action against aggression aimed at any one of them.

Together with the collective security arrangements of the United Nations, these two treaties now form a powerful bulwark for our country against Communist aggression or aggression from any source whatever.

Thus, by means of bilateral and multilateral agreements, the security of the Philippines has been greatly enhanced. To understand why it has been necessary to enter into these agreements, we need only recall that the Philippines is next door to an active war front, the Formosa area, and is very near also to what we may describe as the passive war front in Korea. In addition, we have to take into account the danger that continues to confront the Indo-China territories. We have to consider all these against the hard fact that the aggressive thrust of the new Communist imperialism is being maintained all over the world.

To meet this danger to our security, we are cooperating with like-minded nations in the task of building in Asia a defense-in-depth for freedom and peace. The Manila Conference of 1954 was held with this purpose in mind.

To deter aggression, or to repel it if it should occur, we need adequate military strength, organized for quick collective action. The Manila Pact provides for effective, united military action in the event of aggression against any of the parties.

To discourage political and economic subversion, or to counter it if it should be attempted, we are called upon to make a concerted effort to promote the independence and prosperity of the peoples living in the Treaty area. The Treaty and the Pacific Charter both recognize the importance of promoting self-determination and economic well-being in this area.

The military provisions of the Treaty constitute the armor designed to protect the area from aggression. The provisions on economic development and self-determination, formulated in accordance with the principles enshrined

in the Pacific Charter, are the heart and soul that give the Treaty life and meaning for the peoples of Asia, and for all other peoples who believe with them that the freedom and equality of nations are the most stable foundation of peace.

The free world does not want war. Indeed, the purpose of the Manila Pact is to help make certain that no power in Asia will ever again be tempted to endanger the peace by the hope of easy gains and cheap victories. This is also the aim of the North Atlantic Treaty, the Rio Pact the United States-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty, and all the other links in the great network of defensive arrangements which the community of free nations is building throughout the world.

Peace is the common objective of all these defensive alliances. They are designed to deter aggression to discourage recourse to war, to confine the contest between the Free World and the Communist world to a peaceful competition for the hearts and minds of men.

The community of free nations has the human and material resources as well as the moral and spiritual strength to win such a contest. United on the basis of the: equal rights and self-determination of peoples, they can stand up to any challenge from any source.

Bound together to act quickly and effectively in their common defense, the Powers signatory to the Manila Treaty can help to deter aggression and strengthen the structure of peace all over the world.

By these treaties we provoke or threaten no one. Their sole purpose is defense. Through them we give notice to any potential aggressor that if he attacks any one of us we shall not stand alone.

Through the Manila Pact and the Pacific Charter, we give assurance to our sister nations in Southeast Asia that we do not seek to defend colonialism in Asia but rather to liquidate it as speedily as possible by methods of free consent.

Given these two assurances, the other free states of Asia can find nothing objectionable in the Manila Treaty and the Pacific Charter. We would like them to know that they would find a warm and fraternal welcome in the organization.

Committed to a joint undertaking to promote and safeguard the independence and prosperity of all like-minded peoples, we can win and hold the allegiance of the majority of mankind, and thus help to establish the universal rule of law, justice, and freedom blueprinted in the Charter of the United Nations.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Press Statement: President Ramon Magsaysay on Strengthening the Security of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4164-4165.

**Statement: President Magsaysay on the Philippine Application for membership in the Colombo Plan,
October 9, 1954**

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the Philippine Application for membership in the Colombo Plan

[Released on October 9, 1954]

THE Philippine delegation to the Colombo Plan Conference in Ottawa has filed formal application for membership in the Colombo Plan. While the nature and extent for our ultimate participation will be subject to the customary processes of ratification under our laws, this preliminary action is another step toward the realization of this Administration's foreign policy objectives.

By indicating our endorsement of the principles and aims of the Colombo Plan, we are giving substance to our frequently expressed determination to seek every means of cooperation with our free neighbors in the effort to raise the living standards of the peoples of Asia.

We are also by this means giving concrete expression to the spirit of the Manila Conference of 1954 and its resultant Pact in which the signatories pledged cooperation in advancing the economic development of the region and in fostering the social and economic well-being of its peoples.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Magsaysay on the Congressional move to limit the Presidential tenure to six years, January 16, 1955

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:

On the Congressional move to limit the Presidential Tenure to six years

[Released on January 16, 1955]

THE proposal to limit the presidential tenure to six years, without reelection, has my full and unqualified approval. My experience in office has served to confirm and strengthen that belief.

The framers of the Constitution acted wisely in prohibiting a president from being reelected for the following term. That original provision should be restored. It is good for the country, and it is good for the incumbent.

The ban on reelection assures more government and less politics. It becomes easier for the President to ignore purely partisan considerations. There is thus an added guarantee that the welfare of the country, not the probable effect on his political fortunes, will dictate his choice of policies.

The President likewise becomes immune to the unfounded suspicion and mistrust as to the motives behind his acts. Doubts and misgivings as to his sincerity of purpose may be set at rest.

There is yet another reason. In view of the grave responsibility of the office and its extensive powers and authority, the strain on the health and well-being of any president is enormous. The lot of a conscientious executive, with his many duties and the pressures from all quarters to which he is subjected, is not enviable. If he pursues his task with zeal and dedication, as he ought to, he does not make it any easier on himself. It is not strange that in less than twenty years under our Constitution, two Vice-Presidents succeeded to the presidency.

If any constitutional amendments are to be entertained in the future, it is preferable that they be proposed by Congress, as provided for in the Constitution. It is the more expeditious way. Also it is less expensive than holding a constitutional convention. Moreover, it is appropriate to rely on the provision allowing Congress by the extraordinary majority required to propose amendments to the Constitution when the changes are not extensive in character.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

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Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Statement: President Magsaysay on the U.S. stand on Formosa

**Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the U.S. stand on Formosa**

[Released on February 3, 1955]

RESPONSIBILITY for the defense of Formosa has been undertaken primarily by the armed forces of the United States which, under our Mutual Defense Treaty with America, also constitutes our main bulwark against external attack. Formosa and the Philippines figure importantly in the defense pattern against aggression in this part of the world. The two countries, by virtue of their geographic proximity and respective defense commitments, have a vital stake in the resolute maintenance of this defense pattern.

We cannot therefore be indifferent to the events that are transpiring in that area nor be unconcerned with the ultimate fate of that island. Our interest extends to the measures that have been taken to defend it against aggression. Formosa is vital to our national security. It must remain free and in friendly hands.

For these reasons, I welcome the decision of the United States Government clarifying its stand on the Formosa question. I trust that this policy of firmness will achieve its avowed purpose of deterring further acts of Communist aggression in this area. We stand squarely behind the United States in its determination to achieve this purpose.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's statement on U.S. stand on Formosa, February 3, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(2), 681-682.

Statement: President Magsaysay on the Tenth Anniversary of the Liberation of Corregidor

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
On the Tenth Anniversary of the Liberation of Corregidor

[Released on March 1, 1955]

THE opening of Corregidor to the public and to the travel world in general on the 10th anniversary of its liberation by the American forces should serve to emphasize the important role that our country plays today in the tensions and conflicts that rend international relations. Corregidor was Democracy's great bastion during the last war and I hope, with its proclamation as a National Shrine, together with Bataan, it will forever remain the symbolic sanctuary of Freedom in Asia. Today's ceremony under the joint auspices of the National Shrines Commission and the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, will further attest to our undying gratitude and respect to those heroic Americans and Filipinos who fell or saw service in it in defense of our liberties and ideals.

I have proclaimed Corregidor open to the world, so that those who have heard or read about its epic resistance to aggression may have an opportunity to see it and breathe the spirit that animated its valiant defenders. In these days of stress we must continue to be inspired by the example of solidarity and self-sacrifice of the Filipino-American forces on Corregidor and Bataan during the darkest days of World War II.

I invite the Free World to come to Corregidor, where the Spirit of Freedom is enshrined for all time.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). The President's statement on the Tenth Anniversary of the Liberation of Corregidor, March 1, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(3), 1274.

Press Statement: President Magsaysay on the signing of the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan

Press Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:

On the signing of the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan

[Released on May 9, 1956]

The signing of the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan should open a new era in the relations between the two countries. While I have no desire to minimize the contribution that reparations payments will make to our economy, I wish to say that it is far more important to the relations between our two countries that the spirit which animated the negotiation and conclusion of this agreement should be enhanced. This was a spirit of mutual cordiality and understanding and of willingness to strike out anew along the path of friendship and fruitful association. If we succeed in maintaining it, not only shall we be helping our two countries but we shall be making a positive contribution to peace and stability in this part of the world.

I wish to take advantage of this occasion to congratulate all those in the Philippine government, headed by Ambassador Neri, who worked long and hard hours at hammering out this agreement, for a job well done. The country owes them its appreciation and gratitude.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Press Statement: President Magsaysay on the signing of the reparations agreement between the Philippines and Japan. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2500-2501.

Statement: President Magsaysay upon signing the Tourist Industry Law

Statement of President Ramon Magsaysay:
Upon signing the Tourist Industry Law

[Released on June 15, 1956]

I AM pleased to sign H. B. 2412 because I am convinced that it gives us at last a positive program for developing our travel trade into a dollar-rich industry so necessary today in the improvement of our foreign exchange position and in enhancing our national economy in a substantial way, without being entirely dependent on large but often reluctant investments. Besides, I earnestly believe in the wisdom of Congress in framing this legislation in a manner to respond fully to an obvious need and in anticipation of the jet age in air travel, which, with parallel advancements and expansions in other forms of transportation, should soon afford us an opportunity to make a serious bid for an increasing share of the \$2,000,000,000 that American tourists spend annually wherever attracted most.

I have been most anxious to see something done about the tourist industry but I would never have been satisfied with less than an adequate and reasonably well financed development and promotion program that could not possibly assure the results that we want to achieve in legitimate hurry. I am glad to be able to say now that, with this new law, I feel certain we should be able to compete in earnest for a definitely larger volume of tourist traffic and a steadily expanding share of world travel dollars.

The unique advantage of building up the tourist industry is that it brings in vastly more substantial returns in proportion to investment than new industry or combination of new industries that we can induce foreign or local capital to create or establish here, will ever earn. The bulk of such benefit spreads more directly and more rapidly among all sectors of society than the usual industrial earnings because no significant portion is retained as profit on investment or as earning to be remitted abroad. It will generate new business in the neighborhood of the tourists resorts to be developed, thus giving a firm lift to the economy of the surrounding rural areas. It should also spark the development of our cottage industries producing souvenir articles and gift goods, the large sale of which finds growth in a more prosperous tourist trade.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, which, with very meager means, has undertaken the difficult pioneering work in tourist promotion and I would like to see its organization and facilities extensively availed of in the implementation of the new law, so as to assure utmost economy and the maximum use of the funds made available. It deserves that much recognition and reward.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Statement: President Magsaysay upon signing the Tourist Industry Law. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(6), 3011-3012.

HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Magsaysay at the beer party given in Honor of the Men of the U.S.S. Salisbury Sound

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the beer party given in honor of the men of the U.S.S. *Salisbury Sound***

[Delivered at the Malacañang Park Social Hall, January 23, 1954]

MR. AMBASSADOR, ADMIRAL CRUZEN, ADMIRAL HEADING, SECRETARY OF HEALTH GARCIA, GENERAL BALAO, AND MY FRIENDS—OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE U. S. NAVY:

I WISH to thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did to help our blood bank. Mr Higgins has been working on this project for the past three years and we have always found that we are deficient in blood for use especially for surgical operations.

I am very happy that, as I said yesterday, the Filipino people and the American people are friends, both in war and in peace. During the war, you shed your blood for this country. I mentioned yesterday that about 50,000 American young boys sacrificed their lives for our liberation. Those American boys are all buried in the U. S. Army cemetery in Fort McKinley, their graves marked by 50,000 white crosses—50,000 American lives sacrificed to liberate us from the Japanese.

And, my friends, that means there are 50,000 American mothers crying over their sons who are now sleeping in the bosom of this country.

But in peace, we are also friends. You have just given us your blood as willingly as you shed your blood for this country during the war. What you have done in the past two days donating blood to our blood bank, constitutes another link in the long chain of friendship which has bound our two peoples for many, many years since the American occupation.

My friends, you remember that during the Korean War we sent the 10th combat battalion of our armed forces. I was then secretary of national defense and my problem was how to refuse young Filipino boys who wanted to enlist in the Philippine Army, as their response was astounding. They came by the thousands and some of them even used political pressure, or political influence, to get enlisted into the Philippine Army, in order to be in Korea to fight side by side with the American Army. They fought with American soldiers in trenches and foxholes in the Korean battlefields, fighting the enemy in defense of our democracy, of the very principle which bound us together during the war. We fought together for justice equality and liberty.

And today, my friends, our friendship is confirmed again by, among other things, your donation of almost 90 gallons of your blood. Its material value, according to Secretary of Health Paulino Garcia, is almost P300,000. But to me, and to the Filipino people, it is not the material sign that counts—it is not the 90 gallons of blood that counts very much. What is more important is the spirit which prompt you, my friends, to donate your blood to the Filipinos. It is the spirit in which you willingly gave of your blood that counts. I hope that that spirit will grow and last as the years go by.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Extemporaneous remarks of President Magsaysay at the beer party given in honor of the men of the U.S.S. *Salisbury Sound*, Malacañang Park Social Hall, January 23, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(1), 80-81.

Explanation of President Magsaysay on his trips to the Provinces

Explanation of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines On his trips to the Provinces

[Released on February 28, 1954]

SPEAKING to the alumni of an educational institution as sound and respected as yours is a very satisfying experience. There is assurance that the audience is alert, well-informed, and keenly interested in vital issues of the day. Among you there will not be found many "absentee citizens," citizens who feel their duty is done on election day when they cast their ballot, and who pay little attention to their government the rest of the time.

In these times we cannot afford too many "absentee citizens." Your government needs and benefits by your watchful interest. It needs your constructive criticism when its course seems uncertain. And it needs your articulate support when the going becomes difficult. Only in this way can government be truly representative.

It is hardly possible, after only two months in office, for this administration to try reporting results. Important work has already begun and moved forward, but the full-scale program needs much preparatory work before it can be implemented efficiently. Reorganization of our government machinery must be completed. Legislation must be passed. Funds must be made available, and personnel who will bring honest competence to their tasks must be recruited. These take time, and even more time will pass before the benefits reach into all the places they are needed.

But progress has been made even at this early date. New lands are being opened, and old settlements reclaimed. Wells are being drilled in many communities. Road-building is moving ahead. Much waste and inefficiency already has been trimmed from public offices and government agencies.

Since the beginning of the year, I have travelled as far and as frequently as time and human endurance have permitted. I have done this with a definite purpose in mind. I have tried to set a pace, to overcome inertia, to set little fires of enthusiasm and initiative where they are needed most if our program is to move with the speed it should. It has been a hard pace, but the men working with me have faced it without hesitation or complaint.

Much of what needs to be done must, of course, wait upon the consideration and action of our legislature. Administration measures are now before our Congress. Others, originating in both Houses, are appearing daily. Out of these will come the sanction needed to launch the full force of our national, social, and economic effort.

As you know, rural development holds top priority in your government's program. This is based upon the conviction that a healthy and expanding national economy can flourish only upon the solid base of a prosperous and productive rural population.

It is with this thought that we are pressing for an early and complete solution to the dissident problem. Negotiations to accomplish this peacefully failed when the Huk masters showed that their love of country and concern for the little man were fiction, that their real motives were those of Red imperialism. The cost of Huk harassment through the years has been a tremendous burden to the taxpayer and to the low-income peasant who has been driven from his land or forced to feed his persecutors out of the little he earns. The government can no longer tolerate this economic waste, this major obstacle to rural progress.

All in all, these first two months of the new administration have been most eventful and quite rewarding. But what has been accomplished, and what has been overcome, is only a fraction of what remains to be done. It is a tremendous task, and it will take the whole-hearted and determined effort of all of us acting in unity to finish it. But I am more confident than ever that we can do it.

We have the will and the means, and the lessons of the past to guide us. We know that our predecessors failed because politics and personalities were permitted to overshadow the national interest. We shall not make that mistake. Our pledge to the voters that the business of efficient and honest government will be our first concern will be kept. And with this formula we shall succeed.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). President Magsaysay explains trips to provinces, February 28, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(2), 563-565.

Radio Talk of President Magsaysay at the formal launching of the 1954 Peace and Amelioration Fund Drive

**Radio Talk
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the formal launching of the 1954 Peace and Amelioration Fund Drive**

[Delivered on April 29, 1954]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

IN LAUNCHING this year's fund campaign of the Peace and Amelioration Commission, I am compelled to re-state one of the primary objectives of this administration.

We are pledged to the establishment of peace and the correction of social inequalities which endanger stability and promote the growth of dissidence.

As I have sufficiently emphasized before, the scope of this objective is enormous, and the obstacles are numerous and complex. But it is a task which must be done.

On our success or failure in achieving it will depend whether the future of our country shall be one of freedom and prosperity—as we fully intend it to be—or whether the future of our country shall be one of prostration and surrender to the forces of chaos.

In this crucial undertaking, we cannot—and we must not—take any chances.

Without peace, no accomplishments are possible in the various fields of national endeavor. Without peace, no industries can thrive and our economy shall be threatened with ruin. Without peace, no schools can function properly and our culture shall remain stagnant.

In short, without peace, there can be no progress.

It is true that our internal peace situation has improved, and we have less reasons now to be apprehensive. But at the same time, it cannot be denied that the job of maintaining peace is far from being completed. It is a continuing task which needs all our energy and requires all our vigilance.

This is the reason for our current emphasis on the work of the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission.

The main purpose of this commission is two-fold—to aid in the prosecution of the drive against dissidence in all its forms, and to help in the amelioration of the lot of the needy and distressed.

As you will grasp at once, the commission's purpose tallies with the broad objectives of the government. The work of the commission, therefore, is in a sense an extension of the work of the government.

It is in this light that I now appeal to my countrymen, irrespective of political creed, social standing, or economic status to help the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission. This is a job about which there can be no division of minds, and I am sure that I voice the national sentiment when I say that we are united in our desire to help the less fortunate in our midst.

I have established the Peace and Amelioration Fund Commission in the belief that the welfare of the people is a common responsibility of the government and the community. The government provides leadership and direction,

but ultimately no success is achieved in the solution of national problems without the unselfish and active cooperation of the members of the community.

This, I am convinced, is particularly true in the case of our attempt to establish peace and stamp out dissidence.

I look forward to adequate response to this appeal.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Radio talk of President Ramon Magsaysay at the formal launching of the 1954 Peace and Amelioration Fund Drive, Thursday, April 29, 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(5), 1955-1956.

Appeal of President Magsaysay for Unstinted Support of Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Campaign

Appeal of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines For Unstinted Support of Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Campaign

[Released on August 18, 1954]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

EVERY year, at this time, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society inaugurates its fund campaign for the struggle against that killer, tuberculosis. I assume there is deliberate design in the choice of this date, which is the eve of President Quezon's birth anniversary. President Quezon was one of the tragic victims of this killer—tragic because such a man like him comes rarely to a people—and by associating the fight against tuberculosis with his loss, our people better appreciate the destructive force of this disease and the deadly toll that it takes.

But even President Quezon's loss, irreparable though it was, affords us only a glimpse of the terrible drain on our human resources caused by this disease. Up to this day, tuberculosis remains the number one killer of our people. Even as I am talking to you, thousands of our countrymen are dying and suffering from the disease.

Yet, despite all this, we have reason to view the situation with courage and confidence. Yearly, medical science is turning up better and more effective drugs to cure the disease. Methods of immunity are being perfected. More and more of our people are acquiring those habits of healthful living which constitutes the strongest defense against tuberculosis.

In brief, we are winning the fight against this disease. We are winning the fight because, among other things, we have had generous support and assistance from our more fortunate countrymen. They have provided the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, and the personnel and services that its supports, with the means to fight a winning battle against this menace.

As in most battles, however, this is one fight where we cannot afford to relax, for the enemy is treacherous. We must not only hold our gains but maintain the offensive. We must continue to have the support and assistance we have obtained in the past. We must continue pressing until the enemy is completely and permanently defeated.

I appeal this evening for your unstinted support of this year's anti-tuberculosis fund campaign. We have set ambitious goals for our country and people, goals that we can attain only with the full utilization of our human resources. We must conserve and preserve these resources against the crippling inroads of tuberculosis, and we can do it, provided you support, generously and unselfishly, those who man the front-lines of this struggle.

It is now my privilege to declare open the 1954 fund drive of the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, and my pleasure start it off with my own contribution.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1954). Appeal of President Magsaysay for Unstinted Support of Anti-Tuberculosis Fund Campaign. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(8), 3533-3534.

**Extemporaneous Response of U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles at the State Dinner (Transcript),
September, 1954**

**Extemporaneous Response
of
Honorable John Foster Dulles
U.S. Secretary of State
At the State Dinner (Transcript)**

[Released on September, 1954]

MR. PRESIDENT:

AS MY GOVERNMENT'S representative here tonight, I wish to express my very deep appreciation not only for the hospitality which your Government has shown us, but for the inspiration which your Government has given us. And if I may say, sir, I believe that the success of the conference that we held here was because of you, because you stand here as a symbol recognized by all the world and for what this symbol means for that future peace and freedom which you have given as our toast.

You are a man of deeds and of few words. Unfortunately, those who have been cast with the diplomatic career are too often of many words and few deeds. But tonight, at least, I would probably say a few words and I will ask this assembled group to rise and drink a toast, first, for what I think will always be known to history as the Manila Pact, and, second, to the Godfather of that Pact—President Magsaysay.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Remarks of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia upon his election as Chairman of the Manila Conference of 1954
Remarks
of
His Excellency Carlos P. Garcia
Vice-President of the Philippines and
Concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs
Upon his Election as Chairman of the Manila Conference of 1954

[Released on September, 1954]

EXCELLENCIES:

ONE THING I must do before I proceed further, and that is to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the high honor and confidence you have accorded me in electing me chairman of the Manila Conference of 1954. In all candor I must confess that I feel unequal to the tremendous responsibility of presiding over a conference of such historic significance and importance as this. But in all humility, I accept it, trusting that my illustrious colleagues gathered here will make due allowance for my deficiencies and help me steer the deliberations of this body to a successful conclusion. With divine guidance, with a sincere spirit of cooperation and a profound sense of dedication to the cause of peace and freedom pervading in this Conference, we cannot fail, we must not fail.

The eyes of the world are focussed on us today. The free peoples in other parts of the world wait for us to forge a security organization similar to those by which they are now protected. The potential aggressors anticipate our failure and are seeking to promote it by every means within their Power. The so-called neutral powers mark our motives and our every move with skepticism. And the people of our own respective countries hang on the words that shall be spoken and on the actions that shall be taken here, knowing that their fate as free men will be decided by this Conference.

As our responsibility is great, so I am certain that the purpose which animates us is equally strong. Our aim is to establish a collective defense organization with a two-fold objective: to deter any potential aggressor by a solemn affirmation of our solidarity, and to repel an actual aggressor, individually and collectively, through the instant application of effective counter-measures, including the use of armed force.

Supporting these two primary objectives is a general endeavor, by joint or separate action, to strengthen our capacity to resist armed attack. This will involve a pledge to respect the sovereign equality of states, to promote the freedom of peoples, to strengthen their free institutions, and to improve their social well-being and economic livelihood.

These are the objectives of this conference. Only in the measure that we achieve them shall we ensure the effective defense of peace and freedom in a part of the world where they are in gravest jeopardy.

Thus, if we are to set up for Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific a kind of organization that will captivate the faith and imagination of the Asian peoples and draw them into the proposed organization, if we are to consolidate ourselves into one compact defensive unit that can give a sense of security and safety and impart a conviction among members and non-members of the immediacy and effectiveness of assistance in case of aggression, if we are to start a wave of thinking and feeling in this part of the world which will encourage the affiliation of countries at present still uncommitted, let us establish a collective defense organization endowed with the capacity for swift and effective action, taking into account the realities of modern warfare.

Let my words in these brief opening remarks be an invocation to the Almighty, Who guides the destiny of men and nations, that He may illumine our way, bless our deliberations, and fill us with infinite grace. I thank you.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Garcia, C. P. (1954). Remarks of Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia upon his election as Chairman, Manila Conference of 1954. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4159-4160.

Statement: Honorable John Foster Dulles at the Convocation of the United States-Philippine Security Council, September 4, 1954

Opening Statement by the Honorable John Foster Dulles:
At the Convocation of the United States-Philippine Security Council

[Released on September 4, 1954]

I CANNOT sit down to talk with my Philippine friends without first referring to our close ties over the past 55 years—ties which my Government views as stronger and closer than ever before, because now they are forged out of sovereign equality. Both in war and in peace we have benefited from being associated and that association has grown into a rare example of true friendship between fully independent, freedom-loving peoples.

This relationship offers us the best possible basis for cooperation to meet the new danger which has arisen since the end of World War II in Asia. I know that you are all familiar with the grave problems facing us in this area of the world. Communism gained control of the Vietminh revolution, and now its leaders threaten to take over all of Indochina. Red China has made open threats to invade Formosa, and some free Asian countries are as yet hesitant to take a stand against aggressive Communism. The situation is fraught with peril to the democratic way of life in Asia and throughout the world.

The United States-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty, in the formulation of which I played a part and under which this Council has been established, is an important link in the defense system of the Free World in Asia. It should be strong as to be unbreakable.

I have been told that concern has been expressed that the United States might not come to the aid of your country in the event it were subjected to aggression. I wish to state in the most emphatic terms that the United States will honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. If the Philippines were attacked, the United States would act immediately. We expect the Philippines to contribute to its own security to the extent of its capabilities. To that would be added United States will take all practicable external attack. The United States intends to maintain and use its air and naval bases in the Philippines. These provide concrete evidence of United States ability to and intention to take necessary counter-measures. The United States emphasizes the fact that in the event of war, its power to take the offensive against points of its choosing will, in conjunction with the efforts of the Philippine forces, provide a major contribution to the security of the Philippines.

The President of the United States has ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Formosa from invasion by Communist aggressors. In the case of the Philippines, no specific orders are required; our forces would automatically react.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Opening Statement: Honorable John Foster Dulles at the convocation of the United States-Philippine Security Control

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At the convocation of the United States-Philippine Security Control

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The United States-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty, in the formulation of which I played a part, and under which this Council has been established, is an important link in the defense system of the Free World in Asia. It should be so strong as to be unbreakable.

I have been told that concern has been expressed that the United States might not come to the aid of your country in the event it were subjected to aggression. I wish to state in the most emphatic terms that the United States will honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. If the Philippines were attacked, the United States would act immediately. We expect the Philippines to contribute to its own security to the extent of its capabilities. To that would be added United States air, naval, and logistical support. The United States will take all practicable measures to maintain the security of the Philippines against external attack. The United States intends to maintain and use its air and naval bases in the Philippines. These provide concrete evidence of United States ability and intention to take necessary counter-measures. The United States emphasizes the fact that in the event of war, its power to take the offensive against points of its choosing will, in conjunction with the efforts of the Philippine forces, provide a major contribution to the security of the Philippines.

The President of the United States has ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Formosa from invasion by Communist aggressors. In the case of the Philippines, no specific orders are required; our forces would automatically react.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Dulles, J. (1954). Opening Statement: Honorable John Foster Dulles at the convocation of the United States-Philippine Security Control. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4158-4159.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Joint communique of the United States-Philippine Council for Immediate Release

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE UNITED STATES-PHILIPPINE COUNCIL
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

[Released on September 4, 1954]

A MEETING of the United States-Philippine Council established on June 23, 1954, between the two Governments pursuant to the provisions of the Mutual Defense Treaty of August 30, 1951, was held at Malacañang today.

Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Garcia and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles exchanged views on the threat to the free countries of Asia, with special emphasis on defense of the Philippines.

They agreed that in view of the developments in Southeast Asia the defense of the Philippines requires that the Armed Forces of the Philippines be strengthened through cooperative efforts. This is to be accomplished primarily through a balanced strengthening, reorganization, and modernization of the Ground Forces of the Philippines and is to be undertaken with U.S. assistance. Secretary Dulles stated that further consideration was being given by the Department of Defense to the proposal to develop the Philippine Navy and Air Force.

The Philippine Government presented specific proposals for the strengthening of its armed forces for external defense, including a plan to reorganize its army on a four-division force basis. The United States concurred in the necessity for achieving this objective. Secretary Dulles stated that the United States would furnish the major portion of the military material requirements for such an expansion of the army and would search for means to assist the Philippines toward meeting the foreign exchange and other burdens occasioned thereby.

The necessity for an adequate civil defense was also indicated by the Philippine Government and was fully recognized and appreciated by both parties. Secretary Dulles said the United States would cooperate through existing facilities to aid in the establishment of a civil defense organization.

In response to a Philippine request that the United States place off-shore procurement orders in the Philippines, Secretary Dulles said that the appropriate agencies of the United States Government would be willing to consider specific requests for the placement orders for such goods and services as can be economically obtained in the Philippines.

In the course of the Council Meeting, Secretary Dulles reiterated the intention of the United States, in coordination with the Government and Armed Forces of the Philippines, to ensure the defense of the Philippines against aggression. The sense of Secretary Dulles' remarks to this effect is to be incorporated in a note to the Government of the Philippines. In this connection, Secretary Dulles said, "I wish to state in the most emphatic terms that the United States will honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. If the Philippines were attacked, the United States would act immediately." Agreement was reached on measures to effect close coordination in U.S. and Philippine efforts.

These agreements demonstrate the close relations between the United States and the Philippines, the firmness and unity of purpose, and the close coordination and harmony which is being achieved through the Philippine-United States Council of Foreign Ministers. Further coordinating and implementing details will be effected between the respective military representatives and their subordinate commanders.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Joint communique of the United States-Philippine Council for Immediate Release. (1954). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4160-4162.

U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles' Note to Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia

U.S. STATE SECRETARY JOHN FOSTER DULLES' NOTE TO VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY CARLOS P. GARCIA, SEPTEMBER 9, 1954

AMERICAN EMBASSY
Manila, September 7, 1954

EXCELLENCY:

I HAVE the honor to the meeting of the Council of Ministers under the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Philippines and the United States which was held in Manila on September 4, 1954. In response to your words of welcome, I gave expression to the intimacy of our relationship and to the practical consequences which derive therefrom. Under our Mutual Defense Treaty related actions, there have resulted air and naval dispositions of the United States in the Philippines such that an armed attack on the Philippines could not but be also an attack upon the military forces of the United States. As between our two nations, it is no legal fiction to say that an attack on one is an attack on both. It is a reality that an attack on the Philippines is an attack also on the United States. In the light of those facts, I made the following statements which I am glad to record:

“I wish to state in the most emphatic terms that the United States will honor fully its commitments under the Mutual Defense Treaty. If the Philippines were attacked, the United States would act immediately. We expect the Philippines to contribute to its own security to the extent of its capabilities. To that would be added United States air naval, and logistical support. The United States will take all practicable measures to maintain the security of the Philippines against external attack. The United States intends to maintain and use its air and naval bases in the Philippines. These provide concrete evidence of United States ability and intention to take necessary counter-measures. The United States emphasizes the fact that in the event of war, its power to take the offensive against points of its choosing will, in conjunction with the efforts of the Philippine forces, provide a major contribution to the security of the Philippines.

“The President of the United States has ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Formosa from invasion by communist aggressors. In the case of the Philippines, no specific orders are required; our forces would automatically react.”

The foregoing statements were not made lightly. They were made soberly in the light of the fact that our two countries have deliberately chosen to work together with such intimacy and with such integration of our effort that an aggressor could not, if he wished, disentangle us and attack the Philippines without attacking also the United States with all the consequences that this would imply.

I feel, Your Excellency, that the Conference we have concluded has been most fruitful and in the best tradition of the relationship between your country and mine. The way is now clear for us to proceed with our utmost energy to the difficult tasks which lie ahead.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Sgd.) JOHN FOSTER DULLES

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Dulles, J. (1954). U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles' Note to Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Carlos P. Garcia. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 50(9), 4163-4164.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the dinner in honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Dinner in Honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance**

[Delivered at Malacañang, March 30, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

DURING the darkest days of the Pacific War, a great admiral of the United States Navy was shooting up the Japanese navy all over the Pacific Ocean and was paving the way for the liberation of this country.

During the darkest days of our democracy, a great ambassador of the United States foreign service was giving us all the moral support that we needed in our fight to preserve our democratic institutions and processes.

Tonight we are saying goodbye to this man who has done so much for the Filipino people in war and in peace.

Admiral Spruance has been with us for three years. During all that time he seldom made the headlines—except when he was being called an “interventionist”—and he was rarely heard in public. Yet, from the very beginning, the Filipino people knew that they had a sincere friend and champion in him. As the years went by, Admiral Spruance kept winning their affection and esteem, so much so that tonight I can say that a lot of politicians—including myself—should be happy that Admiral Spruance is an American citizen and cannot run for public office in this country. I think it would be impossible to beat him.

I think the only one who could beat Admiral Spruance would be Mrs. Spruance, who has won a place in the hearts of our people because of her friendliness and her readiness to help and serve us in civic work.

I do not have to tell you, Ambassador and Mrs. Spruance, how much our people have learned to love and respect you. You came as virtual strangers; you leave as the most cherished of friends. The record of Philippine-American relations is full of the names of American administrators and officials who have endeared themselves to our people. Your name, Mr. Ambassador, should rank among the very highest on this list.

You both shall leave to enjoy the leisure and rest that you richly deserve. It is our fervent hope and prayer, Ambassador and Mrs. Spruance, that you shall find good health, good cheer, and happiness in your house by the sea.

I ask you to join me in this toast—to the continued good health and happiness of Ambassador and Mrs. Spruance.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Remarks of President Magsaysay at the dinner in honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Raymond A. Spruance at Malacañang, March 30, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(4), 1816.

Speech of United States Ambassador to the Philippines Homer Ferguson at the presentation of his credentials
Speech
of
His Excellency Homer Ferguson
Ambassador of the United States of America to the Philippines
At his presentation of credentials

[Delivered on April, 1955]

My nomination to the post of Ambassador of the United States of America to the Philippines to me is a highly gratifying outcome of the interest I have long had in your country and of my concern with Philippine affairs in the United States Senate, as a member of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Subcommittee of Appropriations Dealing with Defense. It is, consequently, a matter of personal satisfaction to me not only to be able to contribute to this important mission of mine a background of understanding of some of the important problems that face our two nations, but also to participate in what I am sure will be progress toward their constructive and mutually beneficial solution. I am happy, Mr. President, to present to you the letter of credence from the President of the United States of America duly accrediting me as Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines. I have the honor also to present to you the letter of recall of my distinguished predecessor, the Honorable Raymond A. Spruance.

During my first days in Manila I have been very much impressed by the vigorous and informed interest being displayed here with regard to global problems of grave import to the peace of the world. I know that the objectives of peace and freedom are held in common by both our nations and that these objectives constitute the criteria in our efforts to find the solutions to the problems which face us. I feel sure, that, in this spirit, a pooling of the best thinking of our two nations can contribute significantly to the formulation of sound and effective policy.

Mr. President, it is my high honor and privilege to extend to you that pledge of my cooperation in all matters of common interest to our two nations. I know that our mutual dedication to the same basic traditions will assure the maintenance of the atmosphere of cordiality and respect in which our problems have always been resolved.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Ferguson, H. (1955). Ambassador Homer Ferguson's credential presentation speech. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(4), 1820-1821.

Response of President Magsaysay to Ambassador Ferguson's Credential Presentation Speech, April 12, 1955

**Response
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To Ambassador Ferguson's Credential Presentation Speech**

[Delivered on April 12, 1955]

IT is with the greatest pleasure that I extend a most cordial welcome to Your Excellency and receive from you the Letter of Credence accrediting you as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines. I am also pleased to receive from Your Excellency the Letter of Recall of your distinguished predecessor, His Excellency, Raymond A. Spruance.

I note with satisfaction your favorable impressions of the vigorous and informed interest that is being displayed here with regard to global problems of great import to the peace of the world. Sharing as we do the same concern for peace and freedom, we feel that in the magnificent efforts of your country and people to secure that peace and freedom for all peoples and for all nations, our country jointly with yours, can contribute modestly in the formulation of a sound and effective policy.

The Filipino people are deeply conscious of your concern and interest in our country and people and are certain that in Your Excellency we shall find an understanding and helpful friend.

I gladly accept your pledge of cooperation in all matters of common interest to our two nations and your desire to maintain the atmosphere of cordiality and respect in the solution of our common problems.

Please convey to His Excellency, the President of the United States of America, our grateful thanks for his kind greetings and our best wishes for the happiness and welfare of the people of the United States of America.

“You have my best wishes, Excellency, for a pleasant sojourn with us and I have no doubt that your mission will be fruitful and will bring mutual advantage to our two peoples.

* * *

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the State Dinner given in Honor of Premier and Madame Phibul Songgram, April 14, 1955

**Speech
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the State Dinner given in Honor of Premier and Madame Phibul Songgram**

[Delivered at Malacañang, April 14, 1955]

EXCELLENCIES, MY FRIENDS:

IT is a great pleasure and privilege to welcome Your Excellency and Madame Phibul Songgram to our country. You will find here many things that will remind you of home. You will find your racial brothers in our people. You will find the same landscape, the same climate—and many other familiar things.

But more than this, Mr. Prime Minister, you will find that our people are deeply conscious of the bond of friendship that binds our countries. It is this bond that has brought us together as allies in an organization which we expect will deter aggression and keep the peace in this part of the world. It is this bond which has made it so easy for our two peoples to feel at home in each other's country, study in each other's schools, and profit from each other's experience. I hope that you will feel this spirit of friendship during your stay here, Mr. Prime Minister and Madame, and that it will make your visit a most pleasant and memorable one.

May I now ask you, Excellencies and my friends, to join me in a toast to His Majesty, the King of Thailand.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Remarks of Danish Minister to the Philippines Gunnar Seidenfader at the presentation of his credentials
Remarks
of
His Excellency Gunnar Seidenfader
Danish Minister to the Philippines
At the presentation of his credentials

[Delivered on August, 1955]

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I have the honour to present to Your Excellency the Letters by which my Sovereign, His Majesty the King of Denmark, has been pleased to accredit me to Your Excellency as His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. His Majesty has directed me to convey to Your Excellency the expression of the high esteem of His Majesty and of the Government of Denmark and His Majesty's sincere wishes for the happiness and well-being of the Republic of the Philippines.

His Majesty as well as the Government and the people of Denmark attach particular importance to the cordial relations existing already between Denmark and the Republic of the Philippines. Being conscious of the sincere desire of Denmark to continue and expand the cultural and commercial relations between our two nations, I shall use my best endeavours to attain that objective. I beg to express the hope that in carrying out my mission I may rely on the powerful support of Your Excellency and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Remarks of Gunnar Seidenfader during the presentation of his credentials as Danish Minister to the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3988-3989.

Remarks of President Magsaysay upon his acceptance of the four jet planes given by the U.S. Air Force for the Philippine Air Force

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Upon his acceptance of the four jet planes given by the
U.S. Air Force for the Philippine Air Force**

[Delivered on August 5, 1955]

AMBASSADOR FERGUSON, MY FRIENDS:

I wish to express the heartfelt gratitude of the Filipino people and of myself to the American people for the turnover of these jet trainers to the Philippine Air Force.

The ceremony we have just witnessed carries great significance. It is a further token of the sincerity of the United States to live up to her commitments as embodied in the P. I.-U. S. mutual defense assistance pact. It also serves to reassure those men of little faith that America is a true friend of the Philippines.

For about half a century our two countries enjoyed a most unique relationship unparalleled in the history of nations. During that time America showed the genuine spirit of friendship and altruism, preparing us for our ultimate enjoyment of sovereign statehood.

America's continuing solicitude for our welfare did not end with our independence in 1946. She helped us rise from the ruins of war through rehabilitation and economic aids. She gave us arms to help crush the Huk rebellion. She signed with us a treaty of mutual defense in the interest of our external security. And only a few days ago, President Eisenhower approved the law revising the trade agreement with the United States to bolster our economic and political sovereignty.

Under such circumstances, Filipino-American friendship has been forged. And that friendship went through the test of fire when Filipinos and Americans fought and died together in common defense of freedom. Only those with unyielding prejudices and narrow nationalism refuse to recognize the beneficent effects of this friendship and let it grow.

As a Filipino who holds the Philippines above all, I believe that our friendship with America must be upheld so that we can preserve our country from foreign designs, and continue to build for the prosperity and happiness of our people.

This friendship that gives us strength to defend our freedom, this friendship that enables us to contribute to the peace of the world, this friendship that helps us to progress—this is the friendship that we who love our country need.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's remarks upon his acceptance of the four jet planes given by the U.S. Air Force for the Philippine Air Force, August 5, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3984.

Response of President Magsaysay to the British Ambassador's speech at the latter's presentation of credentials

**Response
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the British Ambassador's speech at the latter's presentation of credentials**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, August 8, 1955]

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I am most happy to welcome you and to receive from you the Letters of Credence accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Her Britannic Majesty, the Queen, to the Republic of the Philippines.

I note with gratification the deep interest of Your Government and country in our modest effort to rehabilitate, to work, and to assure for our country a respected place in the councils of free nations.

I am heartened by your solemn profession of faith in a community of like-minded democratic and peace-loving nations and of their will to maintain their ideals and their way of life and to work together in the political, economic, cultural, and military fields for their well being and that of the free world. The Charter of the United Nations, the South East Asia Collective Defense Treaty, and the Pacific Charter which you have so warmly mentioned are basic elements of our foreign policy. It is on these instruments that we place our faith and our hopes for the stability and peace in South East Asia and the free world. With your deep interest in the Manila Pact and in the further development of Anglo-Philippine relations, we beg to match our resolve that South East Asian defense shall continue strong and that the mutually beneficial relations between our two peoples, particularly in the economic and the cultural fields, shall be further strengthened and developed.

Please convey to Her Majesty, the Queen, the cordial greetings and sincere wishes of the Filipino people, including my own, for Her Majesty's continued health and happiness, and for the welfare and prosperity of Her Government and people.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that My Government will render you whatever assistance lies in our power to help you accomplish your Mission.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's response to the British Ambassador's speech at the latter's presentation of credentials at the Malacañang Ceremonial Hall, August 8, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(8), 3985.

Response of President Magsaysay to the remarks of Danish Minister Gunnar Seidenfader during the latter's presentation of his credentials, August 11, 1955

**Response
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
To the remarks of Danish Minister Gunnar Seidenfader during the latter's presentation of his credentials**

[Released on August 11, 1955]

EXCELLENCY,

I am happy to extend to you a cordial welcome and to receive from Your Excellency the Letters of Credence accrediting you as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Denmark, to the Republic of the Philippines.

I am deeply grateful for His Majesty's expression of high esteem and sincere wishes and that of his Government for the happiness and well-being of the Republic of the Philippines.

The particular importance which His Majesty attaches to the cordial relations existing between Denmark and the Republic of the Philippines and the desire to continue and expand the cultural and commercial relations between our two nations, is a feeling which my Government and I deeply share, and would like to see further strengthened and developed.

Please convey to His Majesty, the cordial greetings and sincere wishes of the Filipino people and my own personal best wishes for the welfare and prosperity of His Majesty's Government and people.

I wish to assure Your Excellency that you shall have my support and that of my Government in the accomplishment of your mission.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the Camp Murphy ceremonies

Remarks of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the Camp Murphy ceremonies

[Delivered at Camp Murphy, Quezon City, October 14, 1955]

WE have come here to honor the memory of three young people who recently lost their lives in a tragic accident. They were Dr. Jose Alejos of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Miss Adela D. Pimentel of Cuartero, Capiz, and Miss Yvonne Ocampo of Saigon. Useful and promising citizens of their communities, they were modest and unassuming. They did not seek or expect recognition as figures of public prominence, yet today we honor them as heroes.

We join their families and friends in mourning their loss, but together with our sorrow there is a warm glow of pride as we think of how and why they met their untimely end. They were drowned in the swift waters of a river in South Vietnam while on an errand of mercy. No reward awaited them at the end of their hazardous journey, no reward except the gratitude of fellow human beings suffering from the hardships of flight from a common enemy, from the tyranny of Communism.

The tribute we pay to the memory of these young people is well deserved and hardly enough for the great service they have rendered their nation. In risking and losing their lives they have dramatized the real meaning of Filipinism, the real meaning of Asian brotherhood. Not with words but with deeds and unselfish dedication they have set examples to us and to our neighbors in Vietnam and to the world, examples of the true Filipino character and spirit.

These three were among the scores of Filipino men and women who have volunteered their services in what the world knows and applauds as Operation Brotherhood. Though other nations have since adopted the idea, Operation Brotherhood, I am proud to say, was conceived by the Philippine Jaycees and carried out by Filipinos until it captured the imagination of the Free World and enlisted the aid of others.

While the people of Vietnam have fought their gallant battle for freedom and independence, we in the Philippines have watched with sympathy and understanding. We have known what it is to yearn for freedom. We have known what it is to win independence, only to have it threatened by the new and more terrible oppression of communism. We have watched the struggle of Vietnam, therefore, not only as good neighbors but as potential victims of a common enemy. Their fight, in effect was a part of our own. Their success in rolling back the Communist threat would be reassurance of our own security.

At official levels we discussed how we could best express our sympathy and encouragement. But while we debated, our private citizens went into action. A call for volunteers was met with swift and enthusiastic response. Filipino doctors and nurses and technicians of different kinds, disregarding hardship and danger, took their positions in Vietnam and worked to alleviate the sufferings of their close Asian neighbors.

No single action on our part, official or otherwise, has ever done more to bring us close to a neighboring people. The people of Vietnam have expressed their gratitude; they have shown their respect for the skills of our people; they have demonstrated the strong bond of affection that has grown between us.

To me, the story of those we are honoring here is one that should be cherished in every Filipino heart. It is one that expresses the Filipino character in its noblest form. It expresses the warmth of Filipino response to human suffering. It expresses Filipino courage in defense of principle. It expresses above all the fearless devotion of Filipinos to the cause of freedom and the dignity of mankind.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). Remarks of President Ramon Magsaysay at ceremonies held Friday afternoon, October 14, at Camp Murphy, Quezon City. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51 (10), 5047-5048.

Remarks of President Magsaysay after the Press-Radio Conference on the holding of clean elections

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
After the Press-Radio Conference on the holding of clean elections**

[Delivered at the Malacañang Social Hall, November 3, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

YOU have just heard a report to the nation by the agencies concerned on the measures that have been taken—and still have to be taken—in order to insure that the elections on November 8 are peaceful, free, and honest. From this report, you know that the government is determined to use every power, every resource, every facility at its command to see to it that the balloting is held in that atmosphere. Everything that has to be done will be done, and if the people would only take up where the government will leave off, I have every confidence that the elections on Tuesday will reflect our democratic spirit and traditions.

I have pledged to our people that my administration will enhance and improve upon the great advances in democratic suffrage that have been achieved since 1951. Thus, I have placed at the disposal of the Commission on Elections—the agency charged by the Constitution with the conduct of elections—every aid and facility it may need to carry out its mandate faithfully and well. I wish to commend the Commission for the wise and judicious use it has made of these facilities, just as I am happy over the full-hearted response and cooperation it has received from every executive agency of the government. If there is anything more the Commission may need between now and election day, it has my assurance of the executive's continued prompt and full-hearted response.

I wish it were possible to conduct our elections in the most ideal and democratic way—free of any police or military intervention. It is regrettable, however, that the realities have forced the Commission to call upon constabulary assistance in several places, where otherwise freedom of suffrage would be completely lost. However, we must never stop working, striving, and educating ourselves for the day when elections shall have become an entirely civil process in this country. I hope and pray that that day is not too far away.

In the meantime, our people are assured that the government will spare no effort to make Tuesday's elections peaceful, free, and honest. I wish to emphasize, however, that the government can be effective and successful only with the people's support and cooperation. We can prepare the ground, create the climate, erect the safeguards; the rest will have to depend on the people's vigilance, courage, and respect for democratic processes.

All of you know that clean elections always have been my obsession. On Tuesday, I want all qualified and registered voters to go to the polls with confidence that the government stands ready to protect and defend their sacred right to vote. Political parties may win and lose elections, but there is one party that I want to win during every elections: that party is the Filipino people. Political platforms may be sustained or repudiated, but there is one platform that I want to see upheld during every elections: that platform is our democratic way of life. Free suffrage is the heart-beat of that way of life.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's remarks after the Press-Radio Conference on the holding of clean election, Thursday afternoon, November 3, 1955, Malacañang Social Hall. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 51(11), 5576-5577.

**Conferment of the Golden Heart Presidential Award (First Degree) on the Honorable Olin E. Teague,
November 20, 1955**

**CONFERMENT OF THE GOLDEN HEART PRESIDENTIAL AWARD
(FIRST DEGREE) ON THE HONORABLE OLIN E. TEAGUE**

CITATION

For dedicated and meritorious services rendered to Filipino veterans by the Honorable Olin E. Teague, Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs, House of Representatives, Congress of the United States.

Considering that he has consistently demonstrated an intense personal interest in the welfare of Filipino veterans, an eloquent instance of which was his extending maximum assistance to an official Philippine mission sent to the United States in 1948 to work in behalf of Filipino veterans, thereby enabling it to succeed in securing the passage of the Rogers Bill;

Considering his continuing concern thereafter for Filipino veterans by helping obtain renewed and additional benefits for them;

Considering that his earnest and wisely directed efforts in this regard have culminated in the completion of the Veterans Memorial Hospital, through the excellent facilities of which afflicted Filipino veterans may be nursed back to better health and to a productive life; and

Considering that by his deeds, he has helped not only in strengthening the faith of Filipino veterans in the altruism of America but also in further cementing the bonds of Philippine-American relations.

I, Ramon Magsaysay, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the provisions of Executive Order 40-A dated June 21, 1954, hereby confer upon the Honorable OLIN E. TEAGUE the GOLDEN HEART PRESIDENTIAL AWARD (First Degree), this 20th day of November, 1955, and of the Independence of the Philippines the Tenth.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY
President of the Philippines

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the Formal Dinner given in honor of U.S. Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Formal Dinner given in Honor of U.S. Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas and Admiral Arthur W.
Radford, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff**

[Delivered in Malacañang, December 29, 1955]

MY FRIENDS:

WE have three reasons to be happy over this gathering. One: it is a pleasure to welcome back an old friend, Admiral Radford, and his charming lady. Two: it is a pleasure to meet new friends, Secretary Thomas and his gracious lady.

There is a third reason I am happy over this gathering. Only recently, the United States secretary of the army, Mr. Brucker, passed by this country, and I understand that very soon the secretary for air, Mr. Quarles, might be dropping by. Right now, we have the secretary of the navy, Mr. Thomas. All this, seems to me that there is very keen rivalry between the United States services—the army, navy, and air force—as to which can show the greatest interest and greatest concern for the security of the Philippines and of this area.

Admiral Radford is a very good friend of mine and I know that, as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, he is together with the secretary of defense, the number one symbol of unification of the United States armed forces. I know that Admiral Radford would frown on rivalry between the services. I hope, however, that he will still be my friend when I say that one kind of intra-service rivalry that I want to promote and encourage is the kind of rivalry that I have just talked about—rivalry between the services as to which can contribute most to the security of the Philippines and of this part of the world.

For our part, I wish to assure you that we shall keep doing our share in the cause of preserving and upholding freedom and the dignity of man. This is our New Year's resolution for 1956, just as it has been our New Year's resolution throughout the past years.

May I now invite you to join me in a toast to the good health of President Eisenhower.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1955). President Magsaysay's remarks at the formal dinner given in honor of U. S. Secretary of the Navy Charles Thomas and Admiral Arthur W. Radford, Chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of State, at Malacañang, December 29, 1955. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(1), 86.

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the luncheon in Honor of U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Quarles and Mrs. Quarles

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the luncheon in honor of U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Quarles and Mrs. Quarles**

[Delivered at Malacañang, January 9, 1956]

IT is a pleasure to welcome Secretary Quarles and his gracious lady. I believe they will find our country peaceful and enjoyable. The only danger they will have to face is General Lee's firecrackers. I don't think however that General Lee is going to blow up any firecrackers in the presence of the United States Secretary for Air. Anyway, I hope not.

These past weeks have been important and momentous weeks for the Republic of the Philippines. During these weeks, the highest American officials concerned with the security commitments of the United States Government all over the world have come to this country. We've had Secretary of the Army Donald Brucker, Secretary of the Navy Thomas, and Admiral Radford, and now Secretary for Air Quarles. Without exception these officials have reaffirmed the determination of the United States Government to come to the defense of the Philippines in case of an attack against us.

The officials who have renewed this pledge are outstanding and responsible officials of the United States Government. Their words express the official stand of that government. It is for this reason that we in the Philippines are happy over their reassurances. We can go on building up this country and pushing ahead our program of rural development, secure in the thought that the massive power of the United States is ready to extend every assistance to us at the first sign of trouble. This is why I say these past weeks have been important and momentous weeks for our country and people.

May I now invite you to join me in a toast to the health of President Eisenhower.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Remarks of President Magsaysay at the luncheon in Honor of U.S. Secretary of the Air Force Donald Quarles and Mrs. Quarles. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(1), 89-90.

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the cocktail party in Honor of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the cocktail party in honor of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention**

[Delivered in Malacañang, February 8, 1956]

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND FRIENDS:

IT IS a pleasure to greet you and welcome you to this party this evening. I am happy to observe that this annual get-together of the surviving delegates of the Constitutional Convention has become practically a tradition to you.

February 8, 1935, will forever stand out in our history as a solemn day of national decision. For when you cast your vote of approval to the final draft of our Constitution, you were not merely putting the last finishing touches to the master plan of our national edifice, but you were also taking the lead towards the final political separation of our country from the nation that had been our guide and counselor for almost half a century. As the framers of our Constitution, you are among the chief architects of this nation.

Twenty-one years have passed since that memorable event. They have not been years of ease and comfort. They have rather been years of tension and struggle. But they have tested our loyalty to the ideals of our Constitution. They have been years of dedication to its great principles. And that document, that product of your brains and your statesmanship, has gradually acquired the strength and firmness of a real cornerstone of freedom in this part of the world.

Let us guard it against the passing passions of the moment. Let us keep it inviolate from the whims of petty partisanship. For after all, the most perfect instrument is not only useless but even dangerous in the hands of men who are unworthy and ignoble.

As we celebrate this event, let us remember with grateful hearts your comrades who have already departed even as I now extend to you my cordial congratulations for your great work. May God grant you, the survivors of that noble group, more years of useful and happy life.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's remarks at cocktails he gave at Malacañang in honor of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, February 8, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(2), 608.

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the Formal Dinner given in Honor of Secretary John Foster Dulles
Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
At the Formal Dinner given in Honor of Secretary John Foster Dulles

[Delivered on March 15, 1956]

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ONCE again we are privileged to have with us a very good friend. Within the past two years, he has come several times to visit us, and each time his stature has been even greater than the last. Free men everywhere have learned to look to him as a strong rallying point for peace and security against the forces that threaten world freedom.

Since his last visit, the security of this area, due in great part to his diplomatic action, has become further strengthened. But time brings other problems and there will always be new difficulties to pour into the patient ears of Secretary Dulles.

The patience, the understanding, and the tested ability of Mr. Dulles, when brought to bear upon the problems of Philippine-American relations, are some of our surest guarantees that these relations will continue to be strong and friendly.

We welcome Secretary Dulles and his party on this visit, which, like most of his others, is altogether too short.

And we wish him Godspeed when he leaves tomorrow to resume his mission of peace and freedom.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I invite you to drink with me to the health of the President of the United States.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's remarks at the formal dinner given in honor of Secretary John Foster Dulles, March 15, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(3), 1253-1254.

**Aide Memoire of President Magsaysay submitted recently to U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles Aide
Memoire
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
Submitted recently to U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles**

[Released on April 12, 1956]

**FINANCIAL CLAIMS OF THE PHILIPPINES
AGAINST THE UNITED STATES**

These claims represent the financial obligations incurred by the United States Government as a result of the special relationship that existed between the two countries and their joint prosecution of the last Pacific War. Some of them were contracted even prior to Philippine independence in 1946.

Despite the several attempts made by the Philippine Government for their settlement, they remain unresolved and outstanding up to this date. They were last submitted by the Philippine Economic Mission to the United States which negotiated the revision of the trade agreement between the two countries but, as in the past, the response of the United States Government was negative.

The Philippine Government believes that these claims are valid and binding commitments of the United States and that it has clearly and fully established its entitlement to the amounts involved. Their immediate settlement has become doubly important and pressing because of this country's need for a more vigorous implementation of its economic development program. The solution of the economic problems that confront the Philippine Government today lies largely on the acceleration of its efforts in carrying out this program.

As submitted by the Philippine Economic Mission, these claims are as follows:

1.	Financial claims of the Philippine Army and of the Filipino veterans (Under Executive Order No. 22 of President Osmeña)	
2.	Expenses of Recovered Personnel Division	
3.	Erroneous deductions on account of National Service Insurance premiums	
4.	Erroneous deductions from arrears in pay (3 month's pay)	
5.	Erroneous deductions from arrears in pay (guerilla notes during occupation)	
6.	Erroneous deductions from arrears in pay (clothing issue on return to military control	
7.	Claims approved by RPD but later cancelled by AGED	
8.	Arrears in pay denied veterans suspended on account of criminal charges	
9.	Unjustified deductions from arrears in pay of veterans who failed to report military control on or before August 15, 1945	
10.	Refund to the Philippine Government for the value of individual and organizational equipment and supplies used in originally equipping to USAFFE	
11.	Claim of Philippine scouts for differentials in pay under U.S. Public Law of June 16, 1942	(Exact figure
12.	Claim for gold devaluation	
13.	Claim for adjustment of Romulo-Snyder Agreement	
14.	Refund of processing taxes on coconut oil ² from 1946 to 1955	
15.	Refund of processing taxes on sugar (1948-1953)	
16.	Balance of approved War Damage Claims	

GRAND TOTAL		

Attached are copies of the several memoranda submitted by Philippine Economic Mission in support of these claims.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay’s *aide memoire* submitted recently to U.S. State Secretary John Foster Dulles, released April 12, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(4), 1909-1910.

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE
PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638**

Notes on the remarks of President Soekarno, after dinner

**NOTES ON THE REMARKS OF PRESIDENT SOEKARNO, AFTER DINNER,
MAY 14, 1956**

“HIS
MY
GENTLEMEN:

FRIEND,

PRESIDENT

EXCELLENCY,
MAGSAYSAY,

“I AM very greatly honored with the dinner given to me and to my party this evening on our way to the United States. It was announced to us that it would be an informal dinner, but it appears to be a complete dinner and we are grateful for that.

“When I was here in 1952, the guest of the late President Quirino and the guest of the Filipino people, I was very much impressed not only with the friendship shown by the late President Quirino and the Philippine people but also by the unity and feelings between the Philippine people and the Indonesian people.

“Now I am here again, May 1956, and that feeling of unity appears to be improved. In fact, as President Magsaysay already said, we Indonesians and the Filipinos, we are of the same racial stock. In the past we have the same history, in the past we belonged to one great kingdom, and although we are now two states, two republics—the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia—I am sure that in the future, the unity, the friendship, the cooperation, the collaboration between the two nations will still be greater.

“We have our problems. But those problems are natural problems. We emerged only recently as reborn nations. We had our colonial past. We have regained our freedom and it is only natural that reborn nations have to face problems, great and small.

“But why have we succeeded in solving our revolution? Because we are determined to surmount every difficulty and as free nations, I am sure we will and we shall surmount our difficulties. The Philippines, Indonesia, all the countries of Asia are facing a brilliant future. I am sure of that. Asia is now the new center of history and we Asian nations know how to understand that and we try our very best to face all problems with courage, with determination, with practical statesmanship.

“I am sure within a short space of time there will be no great problems any more for us. Then we shall have prosperity. Then we shall have happiness and complete freedom.

“I have great admiration for your people and I have great admiration for you, my friend, President Magsaysay. Gentlemen, let us raise our glasses and I invite you to join me and drink to the health of His Excellency, President Magsaysay, and the prosperity of the Filipino people.”

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Notes on the remarks of President Soekarno. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2505.

After Dinner Remarks of President Magsaysay for President Soekarno

**After Dinner Remarks
of
His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay
President of the Philippines
For President Soekarno**

[Released on May 14, 1956]

EXCELLENCES, MY FRIENDS:

It is a great pleasure and honor to have President Soekarno with us once again. To this day, the Filipino people remember fondly and warmly his state visit to this country in 1952. It is unfortunate that he can be with us for only a few hours this evening, but I want President Soekarno to know that if he can find the time in the future to return to this country for a longer visit, our people will welcome him even more warmly and full-heartedly than the first time.

Ever since your visit here, Excellency, and the return visit of President Quirino to your fair country, the relations between our two peoples have grown closer, and the brotherly affection that they feel for each other has increased. Since I became President, the Administration as a whole and I personally have exploited every opportunity that came our way to strengthen these bonds between our two peoples. We shall continue to do this through all the years to come—and I am sure I speak not only for this Administration and for myself personally but for the administrations that will come after us. I say this because the sense of kinship and affection that we feel for our Indonesian brothers, we feel as Filipinos—not as Liberals or Nacionalistas—and it shall stay with us for all time.

It is for this reason I have every confidence, Your Excellency, that whatever differences we may have in our approach to various problems will not affect the basic friendship between our two peoples. While we may differ in methods, I know that we are after the same goals. We are both after peace and we are both concerned that human dignity and freedom should be respected. As long as in our relationship the emphasis is placed on what we have in common and on what we share together, our two peoples shall grow in understanding and affection for each other, at the same time respecting each other's honest convictions and beliefs. Truly there is much of which our two peoples may be justly proud—our historical and racial ties, our common traditions, the struggle that both our countries waged in order to achieve and enjoy freedom. It shall remain my purpose, Excellency, that my country's relations with Indonesia are guided along this path.

I wish Your Excellency a most fruitful and enjoyable journey and a safe return to your fair country and your great people.

My friends, may I now invite you to drink to the continued good health of our distinguished guest of honor, President Soekarno.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). After Dinner Remarks of President Magsaysay for President Soekarno. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2504.

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Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). After Dinner Remarks of President Magsaysay for President Soekarno. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(5), 2504.

Magsaysay Credo

Credo

I believe that government starts at the bottom and moves upward, for government exists for the welfare of the masses of the nation.

I believe that he who has less in life should have more in law.

I believe that the little man is fundamentally entitled to a little bit more food in his stomach, a little more cloth in his back and a little more roof over his head.

I believe that this nation is endowed with a vibrant and stout heart, and possesses untapped capabilities and incredible resiliency.

I believe that a high and unwavering sense of morality should pervade all spheres of governmental activity.

I believe that the pulse of government should be strong and steady, and the men at the helm imbued with missionary zeal.

I believe in the majesty of constitutional and legal processes, in the inviolability of human rights.

I believe that the free world is collectively strong, and that there is neither need or reason to compromise the dignity of man.

I believe that communism is iniquity, as is the violence it does to the principles of Christianity.

I believe that the President should set the example of a big heart, an honest mind, sound instincts, the virtue of healthy impatience and an abiding love for the common man.”

Kredo ni Magsaysay

Kredo

Naniniwala ako na ang pamahalaan ay dapat magsimula sa ibaba patungo sa itaas, sapagkat ang pamahalaan ay umiiral para sa kagalingan ng mahihirap na mamamayan ng bansa.

Naniniwala ako na ang kapuspalad ay dapat na higit na mapangalagaan ng batas.

Naniniwala ako na ang mahihirap ay may karapatan sa higit pang pagkain, higit pang damit at bubong na masisilungan.

Naniniwala ako na ang bansang ito ay biniyayaan ng masigla at mabuting kalooban, at nagtataglay ng mga kakayahang hindi pa nalilinanang at may hindi kapani-paniwalang kakayahang manumbalik sa dati pagkaraang dumanas ng mga suliranin sa buhay.

Naniniwala ako na ang mataas at may hindi nagbabagong diwa ng moralidad ang dapat mamayani sa lahat ng larangan ng gawaing pampamahalaan.

Naniniwala ako na ang pulso ng pamahalaan ay dapat malakas at matatag at ang mga namamahala ay dapat nagtataglay ng sigasig na gaya ng sa mga misyonaryo.

Naniniwala ako sa kadakilaan ng konstitusyon at ng mga legal na pamamaraan, sa hindi paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao.

Naniniwala ako na ang malayang bansa ay malakas kung sama-sama, at hindi na kailangan o walang dahilan upang ikompromiso ang dignidad ng tao.

Naniniwala ako na ang komunismo ay masamang gawa, tulad din ng karahasang nagagawa nito sa mga simulain ng Kristiyanismo.

Naniniwala ako na ang Pangulo ang dapat maging huwaran sa pagiging mapagkawanggawa, sa pagkakaroon ng tapat na pag-iisip, mabuting pag-uugali, ng kabanalan ng agarang pagkilos at mapagtalimang pagmamahal para sa karaniwang mamamayan.

Remarks of President Magsaysay after signing the Press Freedom Law

Remarks of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines After signing the Press Freedom Law

[Released on June 15, 1956]

I AM happy to have performed the most pleasant task of signing into law this statute which further guarantees the freedom of the press in our country. This is a reaffirmation of the Administrator's policy to uphold press freedom.

The freedom of the press is one of the pillars which prop the structure of our democratic institutions. We should therefore not only preserve zealously our free press, but continue to strengthen it.

I congratulate the authors of this law for providing additional safeguard to the freedom of the press. I congratulate the newspaper of the Philippines for their courageous dedication of their noble profession and for steadfastly defending the freedom of the press.

This new law, by strengthening the freedom of our press, has thereby revitalized our democracy, our freedom, and our way of life.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Remarks of President Magsaysay after signing the Press Freedom Law. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(6), 3011.

Letter of United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower handed by U.S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon to President Magsaysay, July 3, 1956

**Letter
of
His Excellency Dwight D. Eisenhower
President of the United States
Handed by U.S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon to President Magsaysay**

[Released on July 3, 1956]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

“June 27, 1956

“DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

“It gives me the greatest personal pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and to the people of the Philippines the congratulations and sincere good wishes of the people of the United States on the tenth anniversary of Philippine independence.

“We are honored to share this day with our sister republic and proud indeed of the fine progress it has made under your leadership in its march toward national development. We are confident that the firm attachment of the Philippines to the ideals of democracy and human freedom which have guided the Republic so well during the trials of the first decade of independence will assure fulfillment of its goals in the next.

“In my stead, I have asked Vice President Nixon to represent the warm sentiments of the American people for the Philippines.

“With assurance of my high esteem.

“Sincerely,

“DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

“His
RAMON
President
of the Philippines, Manila”

of

the

Excellency
MAGSAYSAY
Republic

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Letter of United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower handed by U.S. Vice-President Richard M. Nixon to President Magsaysay, July 3, 1956

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Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Remarks of President Magsaysay after the Independence Day Dinner

Remarks of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines After the Independence Day Dinner

[Delivered at Malacañang, July 4, 1956]

VICE-PRESIDENT
EXCELLENCIES,
MY FRIENDS:

AND

MRS.

NIXON,

ALL OF YOU know how important and gratifying to the Filipino people is this event of the tenth anniversary of our independence. We have had ten years of many problems and many difficulties, but despite these problems and difficulties they have been years of progress and advancement. So this anniversary is a very special occasion to us, and it has been made more memorable by the visit and participation of our special guests this evening, Vice-President Nixon and his charming lady.

When Vice-President Nixon's coming was first announced, our press lost no time in asking me what was the significance of his visit. I replied that to me, the deepest significance of the Vice-President's visit would be its sentimental value. We Filipinos are a sentimental and grateful people, a people of tightly-knit families; hence, whenever there is anything special to celebrate, we make it a point to gather the family together and celebrate together. Those who have gone off and married and raised families of their own don't ever forget their parents when these special occasions come up, and they see to it that they are around to share in the festivities.

Ten years ago, the Filipino people went off on their own to marry a lovely lady name Independence. The newly-married couple carried with them the best wishes and fondest prayers of Mother America, and over the years she has followed their progress with goodwill and understanding. Today that couple celebrates their tenth anniversary, and they have not forgotten that the celebration would not be complete without the presence and participation of America. Thus, the presence on this special occasion of Vice-President and Mrs. Nixon is in accord with the best traditions, with the spirit and way of life of the Filipino people. This is the reason I told our press that their participation in our anniversary observance would be just exactly what I mean by a positive, rather than an apologetic or self-deprecating, nationalism; a nationalism that, at one and the same time, is based on hard-headed realities but does not ignore sentimental values. And I am most happy and grateful that the Vice-President and his gracious lady have accepted our invitation.

There is another typical Filipino trait exemplified in this gathering—and that is our good neighborliness. We are a peaceful and friendly people, wishing only to live in peace, friendship, and mutual respect with those who are like-minded towards us. I am happy over the presence here of Your Excellencies, and grateful for the felicitations that your peoples and your governments have showered upon us on this auspicious day. I wish to reiterate to Your Excellencies that it is the wish and sentiment of the Filipino people to continue to live in peace and friendship with the peoples you represent.

May I now invite all of you, my friends, to join me in a toast to the continued vigor and well-being of the Republic of the Philippines. *(Toast)*

May I again invite Your Excellencies to another toast—to the health and happiness of the President of the United States.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's remarks after the Independence Day Dinner at Malacañang, July 4, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(7), 3554-3555.

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the National Press Club

Remarks of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the National Press Club

[Delivered on July 28, 1956]

MY FRIENDS:

I want to congratulate both the winners of the awards made tonight and the Standard Vacuum Company for having initiated these awards.

I have presided over many awards ceremonies in the past three or four years and I have noticed that none of these awards were for excellence in journalism. I have always wondered why. I thought that certainly the press was one field of endeavor that required the highest quality of craftsmanship because of the tremendous influence it wields on our lives, and that proper and legitimate incentives would encourage members of the profession to put in an extra effort to strive for such standards and quality.

I am glad that tonight this gaping void has been filled, and that the Standard Vacuum Company has shown the way. It is my hope that the system of awards founded here tonight will become in good time a part of the tradition of our press, symbolizing all that is good and constructive and responsible in journalism. It is also my hope that these awards will provide an added incentive and encouragement for our newspaper men and women to establish and maintain the noblest standards for what is essentially a noble profession.

From this tradition, then, not only the press but the nation will profit.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). President Magsaysay's remarks at the National Press Club, Saturday evening, July 28, 1956. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52(9), 4225.

Remarks of President Magsaysay at the inauguration of the Chronicle Broadcasting Network Stations

Remarks of His Excellency Ramon Magsaysay President of the Philippines At the inauguration of the Chronicle Broadcasting Network Stations

[Released on September 24, 1956]

I AM happy to welcome this modern and powerful radio facility to the air waves of our nation. Used wisely it can become an asset of great significance in the development of this democracy. It can make important contributions to our national life.

A prime essential in any democracy is a means of rapid and accurate communication among its people. A democracy, in order to function and be responsive to its citizenry, must have the means whereby its citizens can be kept well informed of what goes on in neighboring communities, of what goes on at the seat of government, of what goes on in the world. The citizen must have this information if he is to discharge the duties of citizenship wisely. Furnishing him with this information is the major function of the press and radio. As I have already said, this is an indispensable function, and it is for this reason that I feel that every encouragement should be given to the press and radio of our nation in the development of their facilities and in the maintenance of their freedom.

A secondary but nevertheless important function of these media of communication is the cultural function. Both press and radio include entertainment along with the news and information that they dispense to their reader and subscribers. Even this entertainment function exerts a powerful influence upon our national life. In its lightest form it provides us with relaxation from our daily cares. In its more serious aspects it broadens the scope of our culture and stimulates our cultural creativeness.

When we look at the press and radio in this light, their importance in the national picture becomes apparent. We cannot take them for granted as routine activities or as commercial products subject only to the influence of supply and demand. These private enterprises can be a powerful social force capable of helping to mould the national mind, and capable of contributing to the course of our national destiny. This fact imposes upon radio and press a grave and heavy responsibility. In a free society such as ours it calls for a self-imposed discipline of the highest order.

Reaching as it does every home and the ears of even the smallest child, the responsibility of radio is particularly demanding. Its lightest entertainment must be clean and wholesome. Even in music, its ability to influence the national level of artistic taste requires a well-balanced output which will acquaint its listeners with the best that the world has to offer, and which will encourage our artists and composers in giving expression to their cultural contribution.

Where responsibility is heaviest, however, is in the area of news and general information. If popular judgment is to be sound and constructive, the foundation of fact upon which it is based must be accurate and as comprehensive as possible. In addition, it must be presented in such manner as to make it possible for the average individual to make his own sober and unbiased decision, to draw his independent conclusions.

It goes without saying that Democracy's priceless right to freedom of expression carries with it a stern obligation to use that freedom not only to tell the truth, but to tell the whole truth and to tell it in such way as to bring about the greatest constructive result with the least risk of damage to the community.

The burden of this responsibility rests upon every individual in a free society, but rests many times more heavily upon such powerful opinion-moulding forces as the press and radio. Those who honor this obligation deserve, for the valuable contribution they make to the nation's development and progress, our commendation. Those who ignore it are guilty of violating the trust and confidence of their fellow countrymen, of undermining the very institutions which make possible their existence.

Once again, let me express the nation's welcome to this fine new enterprise, and let me wish it many years of success in carrying forward the finest traditions of one of our most precious democratic freedoms—freedom of expression and of information.

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Magsaysay, R. (1956). Remarks of President Ramon Magsaysay at the inauguration of the Chronicle Broadcasting Network Stations. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 52 (12), 5474-5475.

